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BARRY MAN IS TOP IN THE UK!
PAGE 3

Wales manager heralds new chapter in Barry's proud football history!

Wales' football manager Chris Coleman was presented with a gift by pupils at nearby Jenner Park Primary school, to congratulate him on his success as the national boss.
Image by JOHN O'OBEIRNE

WALES' history-making manager, Chris Coleman, was the special guest asked to officially open Jenner Parks's new 3G artificial playing surface.

Chris, who guided Wales to the finals of a major competition for the first time in 57 years, said: "Barry has a proud footballing history. The new pitch will be great for Barry Town United and, hopefully, will help propel them back into the Welsh Premier League – but the real benefit will be for the children playing here and the community as a whole.

"Credit must go to the Vale Council for having the vision to make this happen and for making a major investment which will pay dividends for many years to come."

The installation of the new pitch will not only see costs cut, but also use of the stadium made available to the whole community.

Many organisations and schools from around the Vale had the chance to meet Chris Coleman on the day, including pupils from nearby Jenner Park Primary School (see picture).

(FOR A FULL REPORT, TURN TO PAGE 36).

MPs debate air strikes

THE momentous decision on whether to take military action or not is one of the most agonising an MP may face.

This week, members of the House of Commons faced just that dilemma. As The GEM was going to press yesterday, MPs were voting on whether Britain should take part in air strikes against Islamic State forces based in Syria.

The Government motion under consideration made a number of points that 'the House' had noted:

That ISIL poses a threat to the UK.

That it welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2249, which determines that ISIL constitutes an 'unprecedented threat'.

That it recognises the importance of post-conflict planning.

It was asked to support the Government in taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against ISIL in Syria.

Some critics oppose the bombing, citing Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya as unresolved conflicts after bombing campaigns. They also argue that when countries in the West take military action in the Middle East, it encourages the radicalisation of some young Muslims.

• *The GEM would welcome our readers' views on an explosive issue that has polarised opinion in the country.*

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Readers' Letters

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• ***LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER***

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Poem born of love

I WOULD just like to comment on the beautiful poem to Ella Rhian in The GEM birth notices last week).

She is a very lucky little girl to have such a loving, great grandad who has so eloquently and tenderly said the words his dear wife is now unable to express because of her illness.

I hope Ella will treasure it forever, and the love of her great grandparents.

It is a gift to be able to put into words the way we feel; and to be caring enough to take the time to say those beautiful words on behalf of the wife he obviously loves dearly, is rare indeed.

Glenys Priest,
Barry.

Moved to tears

I AM writing while crying after reading the poem in the birth notices in last week's GEM.

I had to write to say how beautiful it is, while being a sad reminder of what a cruel illness Alzheimer's disease is.

What a beautiful poem and good advice and I hope Ella Rhian has a wonderful long and happy life.

Name and address supplied.

No road cure!

WITH regard to Paul Blanchland's letter in The GEM last week, the reason the cycle path by the Barry crematorium has been dug up, is that some bright spark in the council has come up with the bright idea of replacing it with a bus lane and cycle path – as if that is going to cure Port Road's traffic problems!

D Coles,
Barry.

'Look into the street potholes!'

I WAS interested to read a letter from Mr B Kirke, of Crossways Street, Barry, regarding potholes in his locality.

I have now asked the highways department at the Vale of Glamorgan Council if they will go out and inspect the potholes in Bassett Street and Crossways Street with a view to action.

I am sorry to hear about this matter and sincerely hope that these roads will be added to the list to be done next.

I do not support turning the lights off at night, and share Mr Kirke's concern about how these holes are a health and safety issue when the lights are off.

Perhaps instead of switching the lights off, the council should consider scrapping the Mayor role to save money? Clearly, more needs to be done in the Bassett area.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Independent,
Vale Council.

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MERGER: 'THE VALE AND CARDIFF ARE NOT SO DIFFERENT'

I AND many others agree that the WAG proposal to merge 22 local authorities into eight is in the public interest, as it will save at least £650million over ten years.

It is unfortunate that around 2,000 admin jobs will be lost during this process; currently there are 1,250 serving salaried councillors in Wales, which will be reduced significantly to approximately 600.

These changes are necessary in light of the future cuts facing local government.

Our current leader, Coun Neil Moore, and most other councillors are against the proposed merger, as it suggests the VoG merge with Cardiff. He has stated that the merger is an untenable mess and calls on the WAG to abandon the flawed plan.

He also praises the council by using comforting words from reports to support the argument. However, I have noticed some caveats in the Auditor's report which state that specific indicators do not provide a clear picture of outcomes being achieved.

Additionally, there are 13 proposals for improvement which are not mentioned in the council leader's statement. The Auditor said that they will monitor the council's implementation of those proposed improvements.

It has not been stated in any of the leader's reports on this issue that there is a significantly reduced probability of Vale councillors being re-elected should the mergers go ahead.

Therefore, self-interest prevails, with most councillors wishing to remain in office claiming a small stand-alone council is of great benefit to the electorate – questionable. In the interest of the taxpayer, the advantages are obvious – with eight chief executives, heads of education, social services, planning etc – instead of 22.

The leader claims the Vale of Glamorgan is very different from Cardiff, geographically and culturally. These differences are not significant enough to prevent a merger of the Vale Council with the go-ahead city of Cardiff under the direction of WAG with delivery of the 'City Deal' for Cardiff.

There is a real opportunity for local government to make great savings for the taxpayer and if councils work together, plan well, and involve their staff, there is an opportunity for significant savings – greater than the £650million identified.

This means more money for front-line public services and investment in communities supporting the economy. Primarily, as a taxpayer, secondly as a councillor, I hope the merger goes ahead.

Finally, unavoidable mergers to save money should not be used as an excuse to squander money on recruiting more Assembly members, since Wales has a population of only three million people.

Coun Philip Clarke,
Independent, Rhoose.

Fitting tribute to our Tanya

I DON'T usually put pen to paper, but I feel I must thank Mr Philip Irwin for the article he wrote in the Cowbridge and Llantwit GEM on November 19 regarding my wonderful niece Tanya Floyd.

Philip managed to capture the huge outpouring of grief that not only the family were feeling and still are, but also the enormous love that was felt for Tanya.

I must personally thank the community of Cowbridge for the love and support they showed to my sister and family and to Tanya's husband Mark and her sons Elis, Josef and Finley, as I have now seen such kindness and support in such huge measures; I know all the family have taken great comfort from this and wish to thank everyone.

Tanya's JustGiving page has now reached over £8,600 and is still rising, a huge thank you to Rhian Floyd who set up this page in memory of Tanya and also a thank you to those who donated and supported Tanya's two charities.

As stated in Philip's article, Tanya not only gave so much while she was alive, but also in her death by becoming an organ donor she has saved at least five people's lives to date.

As from December 1, in Wales we will have an 'opt out' system unless you register your decision. People should be aware that by not actually registering your decision, you are giving 'deemed consent', but this does not apply if you die outside of Wales, and this means the decision will then pass back to your next of kin.

By choosing to register a decision either online at organdonation.nhs.uk or by filling in the leaflet or by calling 0300 1232323, you could save many lives. There are 7,000 people on the UK waiting list for transplants. Please take the time to read about and consider becoming an organ donor.

Mandy McGowan,
Rhoose.

'Religion: remember the good works, too'

AS one of the Vale's many Quakers and, therefore, a pacifist, I was intrigued to read Diane Mitchell's headline letter 'Religions have run their course' (Letters, November 26) which suggested that religion was responsible for a vast range of violence in the world and was, therefore, no longer relevant.

Does she think that if there were no religion there would consequently be no anger, hatred, jealousy, greed, intolerance and all the other negative traits that lead to violence?

If not, then perhaps she ought to consider that without religion, people who wished to find a reason to fight would still do so.

Perhaps instead she might like to consider the vast range of good works done by religious groups. The next time she sees coverage of The Trussell Trust's vital work in establishing foodbanks across the UK for those most in need, she should remember that they are just one organisation with a religious background which has proved vital in combating poverty and deprivation.

Religion reflects the nature of human beings and could be used for good or ill. Of course, we should condemn its misuse by terrorists, but only if we also celebrate the works of those who understand its true message.

David Heald,
Llantwit Major.

'No-go areas' and a question of integration

I WRITE with regard to the article headed *'Multiculturalism has run its course… we must focus on integration,'* **by Dr Altaf Hussain in The GEM, on November 19.**

Well, I am outraged! I was born in Barry nearly 80 years ago, and had the privilege of growing up in what we understood was a 'Christian country'.

Not everyone shared our devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ, but this did not affect our relationships or friendships – even towards those from other countries and cultures.

Christianity teaches us to love – even to love our enemies.

I take exception to Dr Hussain telling us all that "we must focus on integration."

Is it not true that some parts of the UK have been taken over to such a degree that they are virtually no-go areas?

Many families make every effort to send their children to Islamic schools and colleges; they dictate how their wives and daughters should dress, and who their daughters should marry.

Women are downgraded to less than second class and non-Muslims are called "*dhimmies*" (second class citizens).

If I visited some Islamic countries, such as Saudi Arabia, I would not be allowed to take my Bible with me, and I would certainly not be allowed to build any kind of Christian church.

Saudi Arabia, which is given such a high profile in this country, allows public executions where people go along to observe these events, then return home to resume their lives.

The bloodshed there is quite comparable to that in Syria.

FOOTNOTE:
The GEM has withheld the elderly lady writer's name and address.

CHOIR SAYS 'THANK YOU

I AM pleased to report that the Barry Male Voice Choir's recent recruitment evening was a great success, and 19 prospective new members attended.

Now we hope that the majority of them will stay to increase the choir numbers and enjoy the experience as much as last year's recruits.

Thank you for the ongoing support provided by The GEM for all Barry Male Voice Choir activities.

B R Edwards,
(Treasurer).

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	11.24	8.1	23.58	7.8
04 Fri			12.28	8.0
05 Sat	01.09	7.7	13.43	7.8
06 Sun	02.21	7.9	14.51	8.0
07 Mon	03.23	8.1	15.42	8.3
08 Tues	04.12	8.5	16.31	8.7
09 Wed	04.53	8.9	17.11	9.1
10 Thur	05.31	9.3	17.47	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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All aboard the Santa special!

by GEM REPORTER

FATHER CHRISTMAS will once again be steaming in to Barry Island this year as the Barry Tourist Railway gears up for its annual Santa's Specials.

These will run over two weekends on December 12, 13 and December 19 and 20.

Hauled by the railway's new steam engine, Susan, the trains leave the Tourist Railway's station for the run over to the Causeway, down to the Gladstone Bridge station and back again.

During this time, Santa and his elves will walk the carriages, handing out gifts to all the children on board.

The Tourist Railway's station will also be hosting a craft fair.

Once back at Barry Island, all passengers will receive a glass of mulled wine (juice for the children) and a mince pie.

The café will also be open serving a variety of snacks and drinks.

For booking enquiries, head over to the railway's Facebook page or phone 029 2051 1019 to book. Please note, only cash or cheques can be accepted at the moment.

Advanced bookings are highly recommended as last year's trains were sold out. Fares are £9 for adults and children and £4.50 for infants (under the age of one).

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HE'S THE BEST IN THE UK!

Local man wins top engineering award in nationwide contest

LEFT: David Sutton celebrating his gold medal win with his girl-friend Dr. Holly Pearce.

by GEM REPORTER

A man from Barry has won a prestigious engineering award in competition against the very best of the UK.

David Sutton (23) who attended Romilly Road Primary School and continued his education at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, competed in the UK skills contest for apprentices at Birmingham NEC.

Winners go on to compete in the world skills championships in Abu Dhabi in 2017.

David won the gold medal for aeronautical engineering, competing against the best in his field in the UK, including apprentices from the Royal Navy and Royal Air force.

Next year, the UK winners will travel throughout Europe attending skill-building seminars, before heading to Abu Dhabi.

Barry born and bred David now lives in Andover and was sponsored by his company Qinetiq to take part in the competition.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

DUE to great support from Operation Christmas Child volunteers, we have processed 22,000 gift shoe boxes in double quick time – which means we do not need evening openings this week (December 1, 2 or 3).

Also, Saturday December 5 is cancelled.

It looks like we may top 25,000 boxes donated this year, but there is still time to donate your box until December 4; please get in touch if you still have boxes to donate.

Many thanks to all – a fantastic effort!

Latest figures: estimated boxes in, 24,158; already sent to Kyrgyzstan, 8,300; already sent to Romania, 8,482; packed for Belarus so far, 5,824; total packed so far, 22,606; boxes still to check and pack, 1,552; estimated boxes still to come in, 500.

Tony McCarthy.

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Vale councillor wins Patagonia translation prize

Fabio Lewis from Dolavon, Patagonia (left), who works for the British Council, presents Coun Ian Johnson with his prize.

PLAID Cymru councillor Ian Johnson was recently awarded first prize in the Argentina eisteddfod for translation from Spanish to English.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the Welsh migration to Patagonia in the south of Argentina and the eisteddfod continues to be a major fixture on the cultural scene.

The competition involves translation of a series of texts between different languages, with this year's competition topic being the celebrations in both Wales and Argentina of the 150th anniversary.

Coun Johnson of Barry said: "I was very pleased to compete and win first prize. Translation can be a very difficult skill, especially in a competition where every word and nuance is being judged. You have to remember that you are translating the meaning of the text, not just the words, and that means that you can be at the mercy of judges and their personal feelings.

"I was lucky as this year's competition texts were about the twinning of different towns and cities in Wales with similar places in Argentina that were started by the Welsh.

"The judges' verdict praised my detailed knowledge and understanding of local government and committees, something I've obviously learnt from my time as a councillor here in Barry – and something I never thought would come in handy when translating!"

Panto at the Memo Arts

***ALADDIN* comes to the Memo Arts Centre, Barry, on December 17 – 20 inclusive, accompanied by a live orchestra.**

Performed by BillBoard Ensemble this is a family pantomime and tickets at £13 and £11 are available online from the Memo Arts website.

£4,000 for kidney charity

ON October 29, the Penarth branch of Kidney Wales Foundation held their annual autumn lunch at Albert Road Parish Hall, Penarth, when £4,000 was raised.

"The branch would like to say many thanks to those who supported the event and also to everyone who has supported us throughout the year," said a spokesman.

Polly tells all about the origins of Thanksgiving

THE speaker at last week's meeting of the Barry Men's Forum was Mrs Polly Davies, an American citizen, who now lives in Wales, and she gave an informative talk on Thanksgiving Day.

She had brought along pumpkin pie and pumpkin cake for all to sample, instead of the usual fayre the members enjoy at the beginning of their meetings.

She started with the landing of what we now know as the Pilgrim Fathers, although at the time they were two groups the 'Strangers' and the 'Saints', who because of religious persecution sailed to America.

When they landed in December 1620, it was a very inhospitable land, and because of the severe weather they had to spend the winter aboard the ship. When they eventually set up their homesteads, they were amazed when an Indian approached them and said, in English, "Welcome".

Many letters sent home record how much the Indians helped them in the first few years, allowing them to survive.

Although 46 of the 110 pilgrims died in the first year, it was in October 1621 that they had a three-day celebration, which is considered the start of Thanksgiving, when they ate fowl and turkey, and played games and had races.

However, it was another 53 years before there was the next such celebration, and it was not until 1863 that Abraham Lincoln made a Proclamation for Thanksgiving, which has grown into the major American celebration that it is today.

Polly went on to describe in much detail the foods and customs that are now practised throughout the country.

New members are very welcome, at £2 per meeting which includes light refreshments, starting at 10.15am and finishing by noon. The Barry Men's Forum meet at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday morning.

On Thursday, December 10, the speaker will be Helen Jones, whose talk is titled 'My Life in the Met'. For further information, contact chairman Peter Westcott on 02920 594881.

PMW

Albert Primary School wins seal of approval

ALBERT Primary School in Penarth is celebrating an inspection report from Estyn that praises it for providing an 'excellent range of learning experiences of high quality' and an 'innovative and stimulating' curriculum.

A special mention went to the school's efforts to involve pupils in lesson planning and teachers are described as delivering 'creative and exciting' lessons that engage the interest of pupils well. 'Skilled and knowledgeable' support staff deliver specialist programmes that help pupils at risk of falling behind to catch up.

An 'extensive variety' of extra-curricular activities in areas such as drama, music, science, technology and sport is said to successfully enrich and extend pupils' learning, while its inclusive community 'recognises and celebrates diversity'.

Overall, pupils are reported to make very good progress during their time at school, with the standard of literacy and numeracy for most noted to be 'very high'.

Local painter's new exhibition

LOCAL artist alan Salisbury, a Lancastrian by birth who has lived in Barry since 1974, is exhibiting his work as a retrospective in the Art Central Gallery on King Square, Barry.

Merely by looking at Alan's work, one can immediately see his skill as a painter, as his work is almost photographic in quality.

Using old European masters as a basis of his inspiration, he manipulates the subject matter to incorporate themes mirroring his own life, and beyond, and represents these in his own unique and slightly surreal style.

His work is filled with witty and playful references to the art of the past and his love of football, especially his desire to have been a goalie.

His daughter, who wanted a dog as a child, inspired another set of paintings, but she is not represented in the conventional sense – it is plain to see a father's loving and amused take on the situation.

Alan will be giving the members of Art Central Friends an insight into the meanings and inspiration for his paintings, when he speaks on Saturday, December 5 at Art Central Gallery at 11am.

Members of the public are welcome and anyone will be welcome to join Friends for the sum of £10 per annum, which helps to support the gallery. Refreshments will be available.

MJ

PACT MEETINGS

DYFAN PACT – Sunday, December 6 at Highlight Park Community Centre at 7.30pm.

BARUC PACT – Monday, December 7 at St Baruc's Church, Phyllis Street, Barry Island at 6.30pm.

ILLTYD PACT – Thursday, December 10 at Aberthaw House Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry at 3pm.

SULLY PACT – Thursday, December 10 at the Cricket Pavilion, Burnham Avenue Sully at 6.30pm.

STANWELL PACT – Friday, December 4 at Elfed Avenue Church at 5pm.

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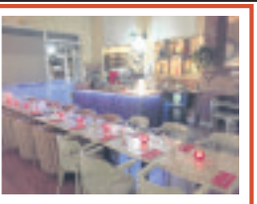

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Mixed Mediterranean Breads (V)	£2.95
Served with Olive Oil & Balsamic Vinegar	
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Parma Ham, Salami & Mortadella (Salt Cured, Aged Italian Ham) Served with Crusty Bread	
Tortilla (Spanish Omelette) (V)	£4.95
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Barry born author's Christmas novellas

Author Jill Barry.

BARRY-born author Jill Barry has two Christmas novellas available for digital download.

Endeavour Press commissioned her to write a foodie themed festive story and *Crazy Days of Christmas* stars charismatic cooks, 'Lucy' and co-chef 'James'.

And *Christmas in the Country* takes readers back to the Roaring Twenties, one of her favourite eras.

Jill said: "Thoroughly modern Annabel dislikes what she's heard about Viscount Lassiter, a last-minute house-guest at the family celebration, and is determined to shun him. If readers are fans of Downton Abbey, they should enjoy Christmas with the Crawford clan."

The GEM featured Jill (real name Sandra Mackness) earlier this year when she topped the Amazon Kindle contemporary romance novel list.

Readers can find her Christmas novellas by going to Amazon and putting in the name 'Jill Barry' and the title of the novella.

Jill grew up in Barry – her father owned The Corner Garage on the current Kwit Fit site (just off Gladstone Road roundabout). She developed her love of stories and literature during her visits to the town's library when she was young

She wrote the two novellas during the summer and helped create the right mood by listening to carols while writing!

She curently lives in Ammanford, but will be a little closer to her Barry roots when she moves to the Newport area soon.

Work on show

A NEW exhibition at Penarth Pier Pavilion features the work of recent graduates from University of South Wales, 'Threads of Nature' by Nick Davies, Jennie Gough and Lucy Thomas, and is on until December 12 at Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth, CF64 3AU.

Upper Holton facelift

THE fourth phase of a regeneration scheme aimed at revitalising the upper section of Holton Road has started with the front facades of numbers 238-254 Holton Road having extensive masonry stabilisation works carried out.

This will be followed by a facelift consisting of stone cleaning, repainting and the renewal of old timber doors and windows, together with a new rainwater system.

Existing bath stone features are being restored to maintain the character of the late 19th century properties.

A number of shop fronts will then be renewed to create a bright, new look to the street.

The fronts of two vacant commercial premises are also due to be converted into residential accommodation.

It is hoped that as well as improving the image of the area, the work will also support and improve local businesses.

The scheme is being jointly funded by the Vale Council and the Welsh Government and forms part of the Castleland Renewal Area project.

Local business owner Nigel Phillips, who runs an upholsterers on the corner of Holton Road and Lower Morel Street, said: "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me and other shopkeepers to update their properties and I hope that as many as possible take up this offer for the benefit of the area. Without the support and financial assistance the council are offering, I would have had no way of overcoming the structural repairs required to my property.

"Being a Barry boy, I wanted to continue to operate from Holton Road."

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Community library is on the agenda

WORK is continuing to prepare for the creation of a Dinas Powys community library to replace the existing council library at the Murch.

The library steering committee has met Nicola Summer-Smith of Creative Rural Communities to discuss.

The available grants are mainly for new services at the library. This does not cover day-to-day funding issues. Nevertheless, in the future once the community library is firmly established, there may be opportunities worth exploring.

A major issue for the steering committee to resolve is the provision of IT services. Many residents depend on the library for job applications, research and simply keeping in touch with family and friends. The issue of what the Vale will provide is being tackled with the head of IT being invited to a future meeting.

Coun Chris Franks chair of the Steering Committee said "The team held an information display at the St Peters Church Fair. There was a great deal of support from visitors and more volunteers were signed up.

"Residents were concerned that library services would continue in Dinas Powys and were eager to learn of the latest situation. We were very grateful to St Peters for allowing us space.

"The existing library building has a list of outstanding repairs", said Coun Hatton.

"We have requested that the Vale Council commences the maintenance backlog as a matter of urgency.

The steering group will be present at the Dickensian Night on Friday, December 4.

"We would welcome discussing developments with residents," he added.

CF

UK aircraft carriers are subject of talk

MANY people will have seen film of jets taking off and landing on aircraft carriers, with documentary programmes dedicated to life above and below decks on these ocean-going communities.

On December 4, Penarth Aviation Society will hear about all of these problems as society member, Edward Oliver, will give a talk about all these hazards and more.

The reality of these operations is far more complex and hazardous than is generally realised.

Any aviation operation involves a degree of risk and hazard; add to this a limited operating space and a corrosive environment for the aircraft (we all know what salt does to cars!) and the stakes are raised.

Edward was in the Fleet Air Arm for some 28 years and was involved with the maintenance of the helicopter fleet.

Members who heard his presentations on 'Helicopter maintenance in the Norwegian winter' and 'How helicopters fly' will be looking forward to this new presentation and learning all about the hazards of Naval aviation.

Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting, at Penarth Conservative Club, on Friday, December 4, 7.45pm for 8pm; a donation of £2 per head is requested.

For further information see Penarth Aviation Society's website and Facebook page,

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WHAT'S ON

Christmas fair for Marie Curie

A CHRISTMAS fair will take place at Tabernacle Church, Holton Road (opposite King Square), Barry on December 5 from 11am to 3pm.

Purchase beautiful gifts, household items and Christmas decorations made by talented local people. Visit Santa's grotto and post a letter to him for a personal reply. Cakes, raffles and more.

RNLI carols

THE Penarth branch of the RNLI will be holding their Christmas carol service with the Cavatina Singers at St Augustine's Church on Wednesday, December 9, 6.30pm for 7 pm. Coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards and all are welcome.

YOUNG GUEST SPEAKERS REPORT BACK TO ROTARY CLUB OF BARRY

ABOVE: (Left to right) Chris Parsons (District Commissioner for Scouts), Oliver James, Daniel Broadbent and club president Paul Halstead. Photo by Robin Pitcher.

GUEST speakers at the last November meeting of the Rotary Club of Barry were two young people who took part in the Rotary Youth Leaders Award (RYLA) programme earlier this year.

Daniel Broadbent (17) and Oliver James (16), both from Barry, took part in the first of the 2015 series of South Wales RYLA courses, based at the Storey Arms outdoor pursuits centre in the Brecon Beacons National Park. They were sponsored by the Barry club.

This was the first time Storey Arms has been used for this programme and they spoke of taking part in the wide variety of activities available.

They went gorge walking, mountain walking, caving and canoeing, as well as tackling team tasks and games. They warmly thanked the club for giving them this invaluable opportunity.

President Paul Halstead congratulated them and presented them with RYLA certificates.

Barry is part of a worldwide network of Rotary clubs that support youth activities.

All RYLA participants are selected and sponsored by their local Rotary Club.

Young people wishing to participate in this exciting and rewarding programme can contact their local Rotary Club by visiting *www.ribi.org/ryla*

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Glenbrook on Thursdays (at 6.30pm). Contact secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000, or look online at *www.ribi.org*

Maple tree reminder of a famous ballroom

RIGHT: Nick Wildblood working on the tree.

ONCE upon a time, Penarth Pier's ballroom was the place to go for dancing and the 1940s was its heyday, when countless people enjoyed their own 'Strictly' dance experience on its beautiful maple dance floor.

The ballroom may have gone from the refurbished building, but a little piece of that dance floor lives on and will be returning to Penarth Pier this December in the form of a wooden Christmas tree made by Cardiff-based charity, Vision 21.

The charity offers vocational training to adults with learning disabilities, and during the refurbishment of the Pier, the charity's woodwork project helped to recycle and prepare some of the old wood from the building to be re-used in the construction of various fixtures and fittings.

In return, Vision 21 received pieces of the original maple dance floor to be used in its training programme and in the production of the hand-crafted wooden items the students make and sell.

Now they have produced a beautiful maple Christmas tree which will be displayed at Penarth Pier from December 7, designed and built by Vision 21 woodwork tutor, Nick Wildblood, and decorated with handmade items created by Vision 21 students.

It also features a specially designed sculpture of two 1940s dancers for the top, made by papier-mâché sculptor Debbie Court.

Vision 21's woodwork instructor Andrew Finch said: "We'll be happy to sell the tree to the highest bidder to raise money for the charity, or possibly raffle it, but in the meantime, it's good that a bit of the Pier is going home".

Vision 21's wooden Christmas tree will also be displayed as part of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Augustine's Church, Penarth, on December 5-6.

For further information about the tree, telephone Andrew Finch on 02920 621194. For more information about Vision 21, to see a range of their handcrafted items or to make a donation, please call or visit www.v21.org.uk.

Parking problem is raised by local councillor

A BARRY councillor has expressed concern about dangerous parking by contractors outside one of the town's new developments.

Independent councillor Richard Bertin, who represents the Court Ward, Barry, is concerned about the dangerous parking at the junction of Gibbonsdown Rise and St Brides Way.

He believes the vehicles parked at the Cwrt Maes Dyfan development site are causing a danger.

He said: "The inconsiderate parking is making the junction difficult for vehicles to negotiate and means pedestrians have to walk on the road."

Coun Bertin has since taken the matter up with the Vale Council and the developer Persimmon.

If the problem persists locals are advised to inform the police by calling 101.

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SNOWED UNDER RAMBLERS HEAD FOR THE HEIGHTS!

RECENTLY, members of Penarth and District Ramblers were treated to two different seasons all in one weekend, after the mild autumnal spell.

Barrie and his three companions were unable to reach Talybont as heavy snowfall and icy conditions rendered the minor lanes impassable and instead headed for the Lower Neuadd reservoir.

They set off up the Taff Trail along the old drovers' road in snow that was several inches deep as the brilliant sunshine lit up the snow covered peaks of the central Brecon Beacons ahead of them.

Having clambered up Fan y Big with its glorious views down through the valley containing the Upper and Lower Neuadd reservoirs, a blustery wind hit them full force as they tramped along snowy pathways through Craig Cwareli and Bwlch y Ddwyallt.

Overlooking Waun Rydd, a stone memorial is a reminder of a tragic Second World War air crash when all five Canadian members of a Wellington bomber died on the mountain side in extremely bad weather conditions.

As the wind buffeted them they made their way back to Torpantau and through the Taff Fechan forest back to their start, after a difficult but rewarding trek through wintry conditions, enhanced by the stunning views.

By contrast, on the following day the group of ten walkers, headed by Joy, set off from Lower Wyndcliff in almost perfect walking conditions with no wind and lovely late autumnal sunshine. A climb through woodland paths led to the Eagle's Nest high above the River Wye, which originally was the start of Valentine Morris's Piercefield Walks, being the highest point with the best view.

Descending by field and rocky tracks to Tintern, before pretty leaf-covered sunken lanes and woodland paths led them back uphill, they tramped on to climb Gaer Hill, where holly bushes were speckled with juicy red berries.

Boggy meadows overlooking the Severn Estuary with grand views of both Severn bridges as well as the English coastline led them downhill towards Rogerstone Grange and Oakgrove Stud at St Arvans.

The well cared-for village church set in a circular churchyard was originally Norman and has an unusual octagonal tower; while nearby Squirrel Cottages, where the original Squirrel Inn opened in 1784, but was closed when the Piercefield Inn opened in 1825 to cope with the ever-increasing tourist trade, led them to a road.

From fields overlooking the lower end of Chepstow Racecourse where the first race was run in August 1926, they followed undulating pathways through woodland and the famous Giant's Cave back to their start.

On December 8, meet at 9.30am at Cardiff Central Railway Station for a 12-mile easy to moderate tramp through Cardiff taking in Cardiff Castle, Bute Park, Cathays Cemetery and Roath Park; contact William on 07528 701 952.

To follow the group log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Over 230 people attend service to remember their loved ones

ON Saturday, December 21, local funeral directors, Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis brought the local community together for their Christmas memorial service.

"With over 230 people attending, the service was very emotional, and it brought great comfort as people remembered loved ones who are no longer with us," Lyndsay said.

He thanked those present for their attendance – Father Ben Andrews and Father Chris Seaton for their words of comfort – and friend Dean Caldwell for his assistance with the sound equipment.

The gathering heard a moving rendition by local soloist Llinos Haf Jones of the song 'Fields of Gold'.

Before and after the service, everyone was invited to place their memorial tags on the Christmas tree, which again was an emotional moment.

Lyndsay said the attendance was "overwhelming" and that the "roll of honour' contained the names of over 200 loved ones.

Refreshments were available after the service and many stayed on to share their memories.

Lyndsay said: "Thank you to everyone in our community for their continued support.

"Donations to support the Velindre Cancer Centre raised £300 at the service – something that is very close to me and my wife.

"Nicki also wishes to thank everyone who attended the service for their good wishes and for the support shown to her during her illness." he concluded.

Volunteer's view of the Olympics

GLYN SCOTT gave a talk to Dinas Powys Probus entitled 'Olympics Games Maker' – an account of his time during the 2012 London Olympic Games when he was a volunteer in the on-site Press office.

His role was to process and file information on the events should computers serving the 4,500 journalists fail.

Each member of the team was allocated three or four 'pigeon holes' covering three or four events.

Data, including results with names, times and comments from each of the competitors, all had to be photocopied and filed in the slots in correct order.

The press office had to function 24 hours a day. Once the Army had been brought in to reinforce the original security staff, the site felt safe and secure.

During the water-polo match between New Zealand and Australian ladies, Glyn said he couldn't believe the violence happening below the surface, where kicking and elbowing were the norm!

The vote of thanks was given by Ken Wade.

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Roman coins and medieval rings declared treasure

SELECTED COINS FROM THE WICK HOARD.
Photo by Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A HOARD of Roman silver coins and two medieval finger rings have been declared as treasure by HM Coroner for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Roman silver coins were discovered by Mr Richard Annear and Mr John Player while metal detecting in a field at Wick in the Vale of Glamorgan on December 13, 2014.

The coins were found partly scattered by previous ploughing and the finders left the undisturbed portion in the ground before reporting the finds to Mark Lodwick, co-ordinator of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru) and archaeological curators at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

This allowed museum staff to lift it intact for detailed excavation in the museum laboratory.

The find comprises 91 Roman silver denarii (coins) which were buried in a locally-made pot. The coins date from the period of Emperor Nero (AD 54-68) to Marcus Aurelius (161-80) and the latest coin was struck in 163-4; 14 emperors and empresses are represented. The hoard also contained three coins issued by Mark Antony in 31 BC.

Edward Besly, numismatist at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales said: "Each coin represents about a day's pay at the time, so the hoard represents a significant sum.

"The hoard's find spot is only a mile (1.6 km) as the crow flies from that of another second century silver hoard found at Monknash in 2000, which comprised 103 denarii, buried a little earlier, around 150.

"Together, the hoards point to a prosperous coin-using economy in the area in the middle of the second century."

The two medieval rings were found in Llancarfan in the Vale of Glamorgan by Mr David Harrison in December 2013.

The silver finger ring in the form of a decorated band, tapering away from bezel. The decoration, which extends all along the external face, has been first engraved and then inlaid with niello (now only partially preserved, but represented by dark material in parts of the engraved design). The ring is of 12th century date. Parallels include one from the Lark Hill hoard, Worcester (buried c. 1173-4).

The gold decorative ring has a repeating pattern of alternating half-flowers filling triangular panels, separated by a deep zig-zag moulding and considered to be of the late 15th century.

Dr Mark Redknap from the Department of History and Archaeology, National Museum Wales, said: 'These are finger rings from different centuries; one 12th century and the other 15th century, reflecting different traditions of fine metalworking, which are important indicators of changing fashions in south Wales during the medieval period'.

Additional finds from the area declared treasure today include: a 15-16th century silver pendant and a 17th century silver gilt finger ring from Penllyn, Vale of Glamorgan; a 15th-16th century silver finger ring from Llancarfan; a 13th-14th century silver brooch from Llancarfan; an early 18th century gold finger ring from Rhoose; a late Bronze Age hoard from Penllyn and a late Bronze Age hoard from Pentyrch, Cardiff.

The Wick hoard, partially excavated in the laboratory.

The treasure items will be acquired by Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales supported by grant funding provided through the Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Heritage Lottery funded project.

Great archaeological discoveries from around the world and the big screen will be on display in a major new exhibition Treasures: Adventures in Archaeology at National Museum Cardiff from January 26 – October 30.

To celebrate 2016, Year of Adventure in Wales, the Museum will host extraordinary gems from popular culture including the hat, whip and jacket of Indiana Jones, crystal skulls and Inca Gold alongside early finds such as Egyptian Mummies.

'Let us all shop around on Small Business Saturday'

WHERE would we be without small businesses? The Vale of Glamorgan would look vastly different if we didn't have such a diverse range of enterprises that have been nurtured and grown.

They add colour and flavour to our high streets, and provide gainful employment to many people tucked away on an industrial estate near you. That is why I am giving my full backing to Small Business Saturday this weekend.

With 5.4 million businesses across Great Britain providing one in every two jobs in the private sector, it is a part of our economy that is absolutely vital in all of our futures.

That is why I spent a couple of days last week visiting over one hundred small businesses across the Vale – you can see every shop pictured on my Facebook page. I know many of the businesses well, but it was fascinating to meet the new – as the old saying goes – butcher, baker and candlestick makers at the very heart of our communities.

The combination of established and new shops in the towns I visited was very reassuring. From the pint-sized Plug coffee shop in Dinas Powys, everyone's favourite Pet Shop on Park Crescent in Barry, a brand new clothes shop in Cowbridge run by Bethan Jones to the award-winning toy store in Llantwit Major – we have so much to offer in the Vale.

Vale MP **Alun Cairns** reports to GEM readers

We don't have to automatically travel to Cardiff to get the goods and services that are available locally. The one hundred shops I visited will all be ready with a welcoming smile this Saturday, on one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

I am delighted to see my colleague, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Sajid Javid, encouraging shoppers to use their local high streets again this year.

My support for our small businesses is why the issue over car parking charges in Barry and Cowbridge has become such a major talking point. I am pleased to see the strategic thinking now being shown by the leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore to understand the damage that charging would do to our towns.

I hope any uncertainty over plans can be clarified as quickly as possible. Leaving the issue of potential charges hanging over our towns is having a detrimental impact.

Shops will remain empty, as the next generation of small business operators will hold off with their big idea until they know that Holton Road and Cowbridge High Street will remain an attractive place to shop, eat or drink.

The weather hasn't been particularly kind in November for many of the events that are coordinated by local traders; but the King Square and High Street Christmas light switch-on events in Barry were excellent as always, and the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade was packed.

A thriving high street needs these events, but importantly, these events also need a thriving high street. If you are out and about this weekend, enjoy the Christmas lights, and why not visit your local shops for Small Business Saturday?

Company sponsors Carols in the Castle

Dad thanks understanding employer for Christmas gift to the Ty Hafan hospice

A father-of-two whose son has a life-limiting condition, has thanked his employer for giving an early Christmas gift to the hospice that cares for his family.

Ian Reiffer, operations assurance manager at Arriva Trains Wales, regularly attends the Tŷ Hafan children's hospice in Sully with his son Lewis, 16, who was diagnosed with a severe form of epilepsy when he was just a few months old.

As part of an ongoing partnership, Ian's employer, Arriva Trains Wales, is sponsoring Tŷ Hafan's Carols at the Castle concert at Cardiff Castle on November 26.

Ian said: "Lewis has Lennox Gastaut Syndrome. He was developing well as a baby, then when he was four months old he started having small seizures.

"After lots of tests, the consultant told us the spasms were very serious and Lewis had a severe form of epilepsy, which had caused damage to his brain.

ABOVE: Lewis with rugby star Ryan Jones at an event organised by Tŷ Hafan.

"Now Lewis is 16 but mentally he's probably one or two years old. He can't communicate but he's a lovely kid, very happy.

"We tend to have a long weekend break at Tŷ Hafan. It's great – Lewis lights up every time he goes there. He loves the sensory play room and the pool. His sister Lauryn used to go to the siblings' group every month but she's got a very busy schedule these days!"

For the last few years, Ian and his colleagues have organised a bike ride from Holyhead to Cardiff, to raise money for Tŷ Hafan, raising £2,500 this year. So he was thrilled to learn that his bosses had agreed to sponsor this year's carol concert.

"It's fantastic. I'm really chuffed that we've got to this stage. It started with the bike rides and we've been building the relationship with Tŷ Hafan since then.

"It's an important part of the community and community work is really important to us at Arriva. The support I get from my employer is unreal. It's a lifeline really. I couldn't wish for a better company.

" If the school phones me to say Lewis isn't well, I can just go – no questions asked. They understand."

Tŷ Hafan business and community fundraiser, Eleanor Leyshon, said: "We're thrilled that Arriva Trains Wales has kindly chosen to sponsor Carols in the Castle.

"We can't wait to kick-start the festive season with our carol concert and are looking forward to further developing our relationship with Arriva over the next year."

Rob Philips, finance director for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "We are delighted to be able to support such a good local charity this Christmas.

"With lots of Arriva Trains Wales staff attending the Christmas concert too – it's a perfect way to get us all in the Christmas mood!"

Details for Carols in the Castle are available at www.tyhafan.org.

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Homework Club celebrates Solid Foundations!

Aberthaw Cement plant manager Chris Bradbury presents Dylan James with his award.

RHOOSE Homework Club – now renamed Solid Foundations – has held its annual awards ceremony, recognising the efforts of Vale children to improve their skills and to help them reach their full potential.

It is run by volunteers and holds English and maths support sessions, while helping older family members with adult learning support.

Tarmac's Aberthaw Cement Plant supported the awards evening, where some 65 awards were presented.

A founder member, Cath Watkins, said: "It's fantastic to see where the club has come to over three years. We started supporting a handful of local children in Rhoose with specific learning difficulties and now we support over 90 children and adults across the Vale."

A special presentation of the Tarmac Child of the Year Award was made to 10-year-old Dylan James from Rhoose, who was presented with the award by Tarmac's Aberthaw Cement plant manager, Chris Bradbury.

"This is the first year of our community partnership with Solid Foundations and we are delighted to be part of such a wonderful organisation that is growing from strength to strength in its work to help local children and their families," he said.

"It was great to hear how well the children are doing and to present the Tarmac Child of the Year Award to Dylan. He won the award for his hard work in improving his maths and English - always asking for extra work and also always ready to help other children.

"He helps out with anything that needs doing at the club and always does it with a smile – very well deserved, Dylan."

Solid Foundations meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays during school term time at the Rhoose Community Centre.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

TV presenter hosts Leekes' charity auction

THE TV presenter and antiques dealer Paul Martin will be appearing at the Llantrisant store of Leekes, to host a charity auction in aid of the NSPCC tonight, December 3 from 6pm - 9pm with Paul scheduled from 7pm.

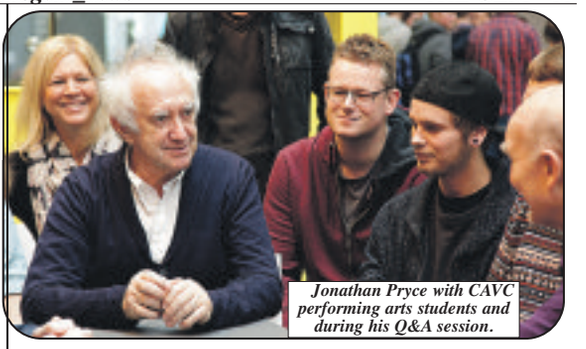
As part of the auction, a selection of high and low value items, donated by suppliers of Leekes, will be going under the hammer for this great cause.

This includes a Hypnos single divan bed, a Caple wine cabinet and a selection of homewares from leading brands including Le Creuset and Dyson.

Peter Mundell, store manager at Leekes Llantrisant, said: "It's great to be welcoming such a well-known TV personality to our store and one so used to the auction environment.

"We hope that, with his experience, we will generate plenty of offers from our customers to provide funds for our nominated charity, the NSPCC."

TV presenter and antiques dealer Paul Martin will be hosting the Leekes auction in aid of the NSPCC.



Jonathan Pryce with CAVC performing arts students and during his Q&A session.

Welsh star's journey from Holywell to Hollywood

WELSH movie star, Jonathan Pryce, recently visited the Cardiff and Vale College to give a talk to performing arts students describing his journey from Holywell to Hollywood.

Pryce, who has appeared in numerous movies including *Brazil, Tomorrow Never Dies* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, recently playing the High Sparrow in *Game of Thrones*, took part in a Q&A session. The session was organised by Into Film and hosted by Bafta Cymru award winning actor/director Celyn Jones.

Addressing an audience of 50 CAVC performing arts students and a further 50 from local schools, the actor talked about growing up in north Wales and getting into theatre.

Pryce also delivered an entertaining series of anecdotes about his life on stage and screen, and working with household names such as Terry Gilliam, Al Pacino and Martin Scorsese.

"You've got to work," Pryce told the next generation of Welsh talent. "Education does matter and it helps you build your craft. After all, if you cannot read a script, what can you do?"

JOIN AGE CONNECTS FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

RECOGNISING that for many, it is a time that reinforces feelings of loneliness, on December 25 Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, alongside Glamorgan Voluntary Services are putting on a lunch at Bethel Baptist Church in Llantwit Major.

Starting at 12pm with a harpist to greet you on arrival, there will be a three-course meal, with festive carols, a visit from Father Christmas, finishing with the traditional Queen's speech and a glass of bubbly.

They can also provide transport.

"There are no costs involved, we just want you to come and enjoy lunch with us on Christmas Day; the only requirement is that you are over 60, and would otherwise be on your own. Places are limited," a spokesman said.

For further information, contact** jane.platts@ageconnectscardiff.org.uk **or call Jane Platts on 01446 795631.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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PHOTO CLUB'S TRIBUTE TO 'GENTLEMAN TONY'

TONY LEADBITTER.

IT is with great sadness that this month the Vale Photographic Club reports the passing of one of its most senior members – Tony Leadbitter.

Tony had been a keen and active supporter of the club for longer than any of us can recollect. He also worked as a photographer for The GEM during his retirement, happy to use his skills for the good of the community.

His enthusiasm was clear, and consistently provided encouragement and inspiration to all, no matter what their ability. He will be greatly missed.

Longstanding friend and member of the club, Mike Baker, has also paid this tribute:

"I first met Tony through his son's cycle shop in Cowbridge, but it didn't take long to find that we had some common interests. They were Hi-Fi and photography and we often spoke at length on each topic.

"This was about 25 years ago, and gradually I found out more about his own career, which took him from the Post Office, as it was then, into GCHQ and then onward to become managing director of Woolsey Electronics.

"Tony was a gentleman, in all senses of the word. He was a judge on the Welsh photographic circuit and to my knowledge, was never destructively critical of our photographic efforts; always giving praise and encouragement whenever possible.

"In recent years, he suffered from several health problems, but nevertheless continued to join us at our Friday meetings in Ystradowen for as long as he possibly could – usually with the help of his daughter, Fiona, and also club member Jim Thomas. He will be missed by all who knew him."

For information about the club, please visit the website at www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk. The club meets every Friday from September to July at 7.15pm in the Ystradowen village hall.

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Celebrating 27 Years

Students' open a 'Secret House' on college site

ABOVE: Tutor Pam Scott, students Sophia Aspin, Samuel Halendby-Robertson, and Matthew Bowley; tutor Helen McAndrew, head of independent living skills Tom Snelgrove and skills for progression tutor Lauren Rowe.

STUDENTS on the preparation for work and life skills courses at Cardiff and Vale College recently organised a special opening party for Ty Cudd (Secret House).

The students on the skills for progression course will now be based at Ty Cudd, which was once a caretaker's bungalow on the Colcot Road site in Barry.

It aims to help develop personal and social skills alongside providing a grounding for transition to Level-1 vocational study for learners who require more support.

A series of improvements has been carried out on the building, including a kitchen refit where students have catering lessons, the creation of a classroom with computers, a common room an d a quiet room.

The bungalow's garden has also been given an make-over.

Event manager student Tristan Perratt said: "It's been a fun day. There was not much here before – we only had one computer. It's much better now."

GWANGWYN GRANT

READERS can get involved in a Wales-wide Gwangwyn arts festival for over-50s next May, by applying for a Gwangwyn community grant to organise an arts event, which could be painting or photography classes, music, drama or storytelling workshops or art exhibitions.

Visit *www.gwanwyn.org.uk* and click the 'Funding' tab. You can also request a pack by calling Age Cymru on 029 2043 1555.

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Ambulance Service exceeds its target

ALMOST 70 per cent of people with life-threatening illnesses and injuries, received an emergency response within eight minutes during the first month of a year-long pilot to test changes to the Welsh Ambulance Service, new figures published reveal.

A third of people (34.7 per cent) received a response within just four minutes, the figures show.

The figures for October – the first month of the new clinical response model – show the Welsh Ambulance Service has met and exceeded the target that 65 per cent of responses to the most life-threatening emergencies should arrive within eight minutes.

A total of 68.7 per cent red calls were responded to within eight minutes. The average response time to this type of call was five minutes and 44 seconds.

The figures show: The Welsh Ambulance service received 38,155 emergency calls in October 2015, an average of 1,231 a day.

Of these, 1,877 (5 per cent) were immediately life-threatening (red) emergency calls; 68.7 per cent (1,267) responses arrived within eight minutes, above the target of 65 per cent. 74 per cent of red calls were responded to in nine minutes; 78.9 per cent within 10 minutes.

Deputy Health Minister Vaughan Gething said: "The figures published today show the new system is working, with nearly 70 per cent of the most immediately life-threatening calls to the Welsh Ambulance Service receiving a response within eight minutes.

"I want to pay tribute to the ambulance service's hard-working frontline clinicians, volunteer first responders and clinical contact centre staff for their dedication and commitment.

"Their work embracing the new clinical response model is crucial to delivering better outcomes for patients."

Tracey Myhill, chief executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service, said: "We're grateful to staff for embracing this new way of working, and to the people of Wales for their patience and understanding while we continue to improve."

Christmas at Dyffryn House

THE Vale is invited to step back in time with the National Trust and enjoy a traditional Christmas with all the trappings.

At Dyffryn Gardens visitors can not only expect the house and gardens to be dressed to festive perfection, but can really get into the spirit at a series of carol concerts taking place throughout the month (December 4, 11 and 18, 7pm).

Singing is optional but with mince pies and a glass of bubbly and the beautifully decorated Great Hall as the backdrop, it will be enough to put even the biggest Scrooge among us in the Christmas mood.

Father Christmas will be stopping by to meet little ones and give them a very special gift chosen just for them (December 5 /6 and 12/13).

For more information about National Trust Wales events, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out.

Amelia Trust's marquee fair a festive success

THE Amelia Trust Farm's Christmas fair was held at the Cottrell Park Golf Resort's all-weather marquee in a festive atmosphere, as shoppers browsed a wide range of crafts and goods.

Youngsters were kept entertained by animals from the Nearly Wild Show and Vale Owls.

There was a visit from Father Christmas and children were able to have a go at cake decorating, Christmas crafts and also skipping rope making with the Cowbridge Scout Group.

Visitors were treated to a live performance of festive songs and carols by Cathays Methodist Community Choir, while they tucked into homemade cakes and mince pies made and served by volunteers of the Amelia Trust Farm.

The day was a huge success and raised much-needed funds to enable the farm to continue its work supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. A big thank you goes out to everyone who supported the event.

Volunteers sought

Amelia Trust is currently recruiting for volunteers to join its general maintenance, administration and weekend animal care teams.

***To find out more, contact Jo Whitfield on 01446 782030, or email** jow@ameliatrust.org.uk*

JW

Lucky tickets!

IF anyone has a strip of green raffle tickets numbered 66-70; you have won a prize...

Bring the tickets to the office at Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg, Barri.

The juniors' Christmas service will be held on December 15 and 16 at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

OS oes gan unrhyw un stribed tocynnau rafflgwyrdd rhif 66-70; mae gwobr ar gael. Dewch a'r tocynnau i'r swyddfa.

Cynhelir gwasanaeth yr adran iau ar foreau'r 15 a'r 16 o Ragfyr yn Eglwys y Groes Sanctaidd Y Bont-Faen.

Lib Dem leader backs Marie Curie campaign

LEADER of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, Kirsty Williams AM, is backing a Marie Curie campaign calling for the right for everyone to have palliative care when they need it.

Marie Curie lead nurse Carolyn Gent gives Kirsty Williams AM a tour of the hospice.

On a visit to Penarth on November 27, she said: "It was a privilege to be able to attend the Marie Curie hospice today and learn more about the work of this important charity.

"From speaking to patients and their families, it was clear that the charity's staff, both in the hospice and out in the community, provide truly outstanding care and support for people living with a terminal illness.

"I am happy to support the charity's campaign to ensure that people who need palliative care services don't miss out at the time when they need that care the most."

The campaign comes as Marie Curie revealed that half of people over the age of 50 in Wales, of whom there are 1.2 million, are not confident that they will get the care they need towards the end of their life.

One in four people each year who need palliative care, miss out on it because their needs are not recognised and they are not referred on to the right services.

Marie Curie is calling on the Welsh Government to build on the good work already done to improve access to high quality palliative and end of life care for everyone with a terminal illness.

If you, or someone you're close to, has a terminal illness, call the Marie Curie Support Line on 0800 090 2309, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm; or visit mariecurie.org.uk/help

You can also talk to people in a similar situation in the Marie Curie community.

Age Connects fair a success

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop held a very successful Christmas fayre at the Civic Offices opened by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Fred Johnson.

A prize draw had over 20 prizes donated by local businesses, including Manor House, New Theatre, Head Office hairdressers, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Macdonalds, and Roy's Toys.

The fair raised £513.33, all of which will be used for the benefit of the Age Connects Senior Health Shop in Barry.

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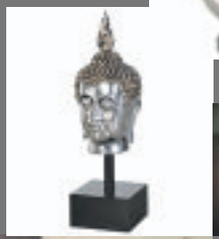

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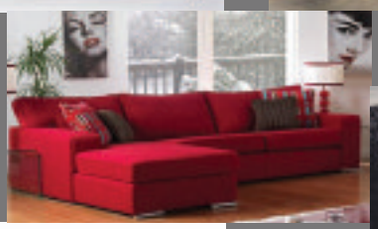

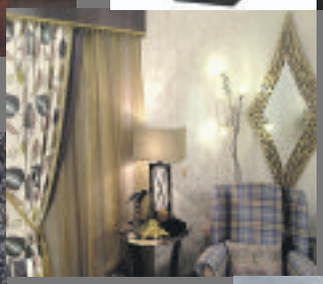

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Rotary competition for young singers tests eminent judges

ABOVE: the winner, Charlotte Bonney.

The Rotary Young Vocalist singers.

RIGHT: Iona Jones, David Rogers and Dyfed Wyn Jones.

THE club and area Rotary Young Vocalist competition was held in Cowbridge Comprehensive School on the evening of Thursday, November 26.

This annual event, organised by Llantwit Major Rotary club, showcases fabulous young local talent and this year we were joined by competitors sponsored by the Neath and Swansea Valley Rotary clubs in what proved to be a wonderful evening's entertainment.

Third prizewinner was Annie Phillips, a student at Cefn Saeson School, Neath, who sang 'Cry Me a River' by Arthur Hamilton, followed by 'Once Upon a Dream' from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*.

The second prize went to Trystan Watkins, who sang 'Amarillo Mia Bella' by Caccini and 'The Sky Above the Roof' by Vaughan Williams. Trystan is a student at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Swansea Valley.

The first prize went to Cowbridge Comprehensive student, Charlotte Bonney, who sang two jazz standards with great feeling and skill, 'My Funny Valentine' by Rodgers and Hart; followed by 'Take the A Train' by Billy Strayhorn.

We were fortunate to have two eminent professional singers as judges: Iona Jones, the well-known soprano who is also honorary president of Cowbridge Male Voice Choir. Dyfed Wyn Jones is an experienced baritone who often sings with the Welsh National Opera.

They had the difficult task of choosing the three winners, and provided valuable feedback for each of the 15 contestants.

Llantwit Major Rotary club president, Dr David Rogers, commended the contestants on their talent and wished first prizewinner Charlotte Bonney luck in the District 1150 final, which will be held in Cowbridge Comprehensive on Saturday, February 27.

This district includes clubs from across south and mid Wales. **TC**

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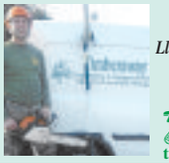

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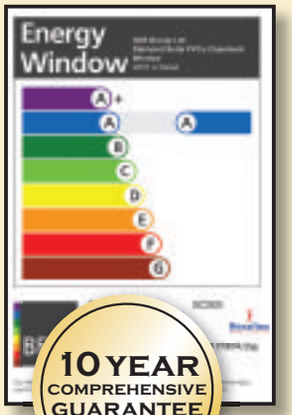

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'H' HEADLINES ALADDIN PANTO AT NEW THEATRE

The cast of Aladdin at the New Theatre.

THE New Theatre will follow up last year's successful panto *Cinderella* with *Aladdin*, from December 12 to January 17.

Joining last year's record-breaking cast is Ian 'H' Watkins from Steps, who plays Aladdin, along with actor and model Linda Lusardi, who plays the Slave of the Ring.

Also returning will be comedians and panto veterans Mike Doyle (as Widow Twankey) and Andy Jones (as Wishee Washee).

Sam Kane, is not only playing ultimate pantomime baddie Abanazar, but he directs the production too.

Welsh rugby legend Gareth Thomas makes only his second panto appearance as the Genie of the Lamp. The Princess is played by Holly Bluett.

Tickets (£10.50 to £31) from box office 02920 878889 or book online www.newtheatrecardiff.co.uk.

Spielberg's Cold War spy thriller is a classy and engaging affair...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

GIVEN his strong work ethic, it seems strange to think that Steven Spielberg's last film, *Lincoln*, was nearly three years ago.

While the 'Berg has plenty on his slate in the future (including a take on Roald Dahl's *The BFG*), his current film sees him re-team with Tom Hanks for the third time in *Bridge of Spies*.

A true story, it sees Hanks play James B Donovan, an American lawyer hired to defend Rudolf Abel (Mark Rylance), a Soviet spy who has been caught. While Donovan was initially hired in order to ensure Abel received a fair trial, their relationship deepens, and when American pilot Francis Gary Powers (Austin Stowell) is shot down over Russia, Donovan is recruited to arrange an exchange for Powers with Abel returning home – an exchange that doesn't go as smoothly as hoped...

It seems like something of a foregone conclusion to cast Tom Hanks as a wholly decent American, concerned with doing the morally right thing rather than the perceived right thing, even when it comes at a cost to both him and his family.

However, just because it's a foregone conclusion doesn't mean that the end performance, and indeed product, is anything less than stellar, and so it applies to *Bridge of Spies*, a film that trades on Hanks' (and to some degree Steven Spielberg's) honour and nobility and coalesces into an insightful and powerful film.

It's essentially two separate stories tied in together – the opening half of the film sees Hanks' Donovan coerced into defending Abel despite it being the 'un-American' thing to do; despite doing what's right and just, Donovan discovers that his stand has consequences.

The second half sees Powers shot down over Russia and Donovan brought into the fold to negotiate his release in return for Abel's release and return to the Soviets – one of many wrinkles being that the swap has to take place in East Berlin, and that an American student has found himself captured and held prisoner at the same time.

It feels a little tacked together, Donovan and Abel the bridges between the stories, but within are some deeply tense and moving sequences; as the script subtly indicates, the notion of doing the right thing applies even when other people believe you are doing the wrong thing, and it's the conviction of your beliefs, and how hard you cling onto them even in the face of extreme adversity, that showcases your character.

There are even a few idiosyncratic notes, supplied by the Coen brothers, which deepen and bring the humanity out in the story even more.

This is as close as Hanks may get to play Atticus Finch, but while the similarities between that fictional character and the non-fictional Donovan are perhaps played up for the screen, Hanks' stoic turn is exceptional, the actor rooting the character as a believable one, doing what he feels is right.

It is an archetype in the Hanks canon certainly, but it doesn't lessen the impact of his powerful performance at all.

Opposite him is Mark Rylance, a man more likely to be found on stage rather than screen – although, on the basis of his work here, that may no longer apply as Rylance is an incredible counterpoint to Hanks, their onscreen chemistry well played as the actor brings incredible nuance to Abel, like Donovan a man doing what he believed was right, for his country.

The film pivots on their relationship, even when action switches to freeing Powers and Abel is relegated to occasional cutaway scenes – the characters strongly written and even more strongly portrayed, with an unshowy supporting cast dripping with pedigree solidifying the foundations.

For Spielberg, this mines a similar ground to *Lincoln* in a roundabout way – a man doing what he feels is right and damn the consequences, despite being acutely aware of them – and it follows that film's dialogue-heavy tone.

There are occasional sequences of drama where Spielberg cuts loose (the capture of Abel, a horrifying glimpse into the lengths people went to get over the wall, a tension-filled climax) but his focus is on telling the story, which he does incredibly well.

Quite whether such a prestigious project will get the overwhelming love it deserves – particularly come awards season – will depend on how you view the achievement of *Bridge of Spies*; you could argue that it's Hanks and Spielberg delivering what they're good at – but such skilled filmmaking and strong acting should never be taken for granted.

VERDICT – A gripping, emotionally-involving spy thriller, *Bridge of Spies* sees the all-American Tom Hanks essay an all-American hero in a stylishly shot and executed Steven Spielberg film. With an outstanding turn from Mark Rylance, it is a truly impressive film that more than stands up to the reputations of those involved. Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Schindler's List* (1993), *Unbroken* (2014).

Santa Specials at Barry station

SANTA'S coming to the Barry Island Tourist Railway on the weekends of December 12 to 13 and 19 to 20.

The railway is gearing up to receive him and have commissioned their steam locomotive *Susan*, built in 1952, to haul the Santa Special trains which will run on each of the days at 11.45am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

Booking is advisable as the trains are already filling up fast, but there are still some seats available on December 12 and 13. To book, call Kathryn on 02920 511019.

John Buxton, managing director of the railway said: "Visiting the Barry Tourist Railway is a great way to see Santa; there is no queuing as Santa visits every child on the train at their seat and gives each one a quality present. Adults can sample the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards."

There will vintage and wartime Christmas displays at Barry Island station too and craft stalls on some days.

For more information contact John Buxton, Barry Tourist Railway on 01446 748816; john.buxton@cambriantransport.com.

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BLOODWISE Cardiff will hold a concert on Saturday, December 12 at 7pm at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff.

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, Cantorion Pontyclun Ladies' Choir and the Nidus Children's Choir will all feature and every penny raised will fund groundbreaking blood cancer research and vital patient support.

For more information go to bloodwise.org.uk/event-challenges/do-anything-go-event/wales/cardiff-carol-concert or call the box office on 02920 342854.

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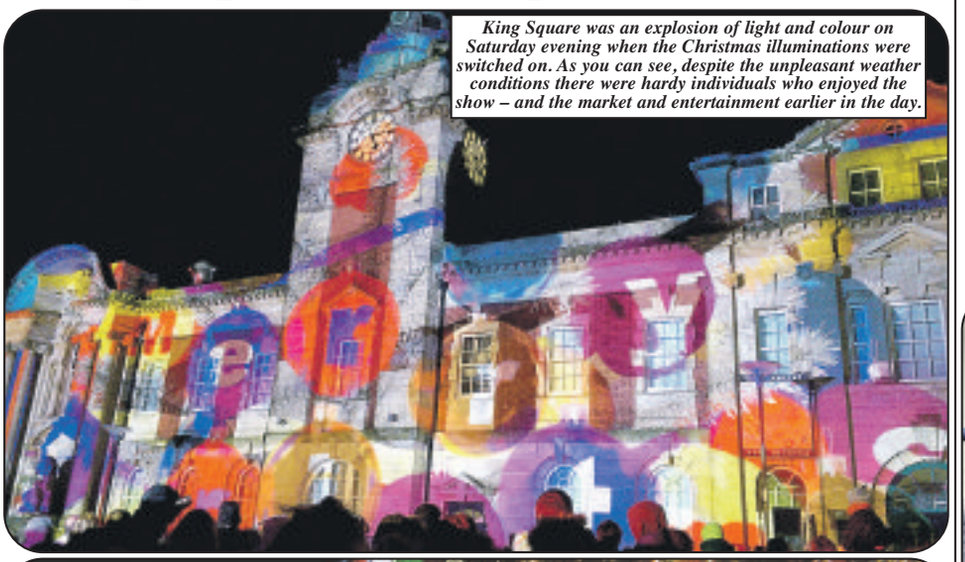
King Square is lit up for Christmas



King Square was an explosion of light and colour on Saturday evening when the Christmas illuminations were switched on. As you can see, despite the unpleasant weather conditions there were hardy individuals who enjoyed the show – and the market and entertainment earlier in the day.

Nancy is the special guest at her school – 80 years after starting there!

ABOVE: Nancy opens the new classrooms at Llangan Primary School.

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE special guest at Llangan Primary School last week was a local lady who was a pupil there – over 80 years ago!

The occasion was the much anticipated grand opening of a new classroom base, and it was only fitting that a former pupil (and great friend of the school), Mrs Nancy Davidge was invited to perform the grand opening.

She said: "I was a pupil at Llangan over 80 years ago and in that time I have seen the school develop in so many different ways."

During the summer holidays the school underwent a significant facelift as a new and enlarged kitchen was built, a new air-conditioned double classroom was erected and an existing classroom was refurbished, containing a kitchen for the children, new windows, flooring and toilets to boot!

The new classrooms are a welcome addition to the school which has for a number of years been struggling to 'make do and mend' the pre-existing building.

The headteacher, Mr Steve Williams, said: "The school can now boast a state-of-the-art classroom base which will ensure that the needs of pupils and staff are met for future generations of Llangan children.

"The Vale Council's catering department must also be commended for investing in a new kitchen at Llangan. This means that, for the first time in many years, children, staff and visitors can now enjoy freshly prepared, delicious and nutritious food cooked on site by Mrs Paula Meek, the new school cook in charge.

"The children have given the meals a huge thumbs up. Nearly as many pupils now choose to have a school meal per day as were ordered in a week before the new kitchen was built."

As Mr Williams leaves Llangan to take up a new post as headteacher of Sully Primary School, he would like to thank the pupils, parents, staff and governing body for their support and patience while the building work was completed.

He added: "I am proud of having been part of the Llangan family as both deputy headteacher and now headteacher.

"I hope that future generations of pupils and staff enjoy the fantastic facilities available to them and continue to offer a top-rate education for the children in the community."

READERS' LETTERS

Monster block!

ABOVE: The road to nowhere!

THIS photograph was taken at The Rise, Ystradowen, where enormous lorries arrive daily blocking the road, driving over the pavements.

How planning was given to such a narrow access to a housing estate of 40 – 50 houses, I cannot fathom.

The north facing slope of this road will freeze over before long, and one or more of these monstrous vehicles is going to finish up in somebody's garden. Or house!

William R Turner, Ystradowen.

Council, too, fought for Post Office

I AM sure that all of us in Cowbridge will be delighted to see the new post office due open on December 9 – and a big thank you to all who have worked hard to achieve this.

I want you to know that the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, too, was very involved in working hard for this result.

We had the Post Office people come to talk to us acbout their difficulties and we have been in regular touch with them since April 2014. Our Town Clerk, Mr Andrew Davies, has written to them on numerous occasions – and has answered their queries many times – so our sincere thanks to him for all his efforts.

Coun Gwen Baty, Cowbridge.

LALESTON CELEBRATION

SOROPTIMIST International Bridgend are holding a 'Christmas Celebration' at 6pm, Wednesday, on December 9, in St David's Church, Laleston, with carols and readings featuring Ogmore Vale Male Voice Choir. All are welcome.

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SANTA AND HIS REINDEER THRILL THE CROWDS AT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

THE Cowbridge Reindeer Parade took place on Sunday, November 29, and drew large crowds to the town.

It serves as the traders' big 'thank you' to the public for its support throughout the year.

As you can see, Glyn Evans was on hand to capture some precious memories.

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MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

LLAIS LLEOL – Dr Dylan Jones

WEDI dros 15 mlynedd fel Pennaeth Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, a'n fwy diweddar yr ysgol 3-19 oed, bydd Dr Dylan Jones yn ffarwelio â'r ysgol ar ddiwedd y mis er mwyn dechrau ar ei swydd newydd ym Mhrifysgol y Drindod Dewi Sant yn y Flwyddyn Newydd.

Pa ardal o'r Fro ydych chi'n byw, ac ers pryd ydych chi wedi bod yn byw yno?

Symudodd Glenda a fi i'r Bontfaen ym mis Hydref 1987 yn fuan wedi i ni briodi ac yna fe fuodd y teulu'n byw yn Ystradowen am gyfnod ac erbyn hyn yn Nhresimwn.

Beth yw'r peth gorau am fyw yn y Fro?

Y gymuned a hefyd y cyfle i fyw yn y wlad, yn agos at y môr, ac o fewn cyrraedd i Gaerdydd heb fod yn rhy agos. Mae'n braf gadael y ddinas tu ôl i chi a medru mwynhau gwyrddni'r ardal. Mae'r gorau o sawl byd gennym ni.

Rhowch 5 gair i ddisgrifio'r Fro.

Gwyrdd, cymunedol, heddychlon, amrywiol, cartref.

Pa atgofion sy'n aros yn y cof fwyaf, o'ch cyfnod fel Pennaeth Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg?

Mae'n amhosib dewis un atgof ond mae cymaint o atgofion melys. Cefais fy atgoffa yn ddiweddar o siwrne'r ysgol ers ei sefydlu yn ystod fy nghinio ffarwel. Yr atgof orau pob tro yw gweld wynebau disgyblion wedi iddynt lwyddo ar rywbeth. Mae Ysgol y Fro yn le sbesial.

Ers dechrau yn eich rôl fel Pennaeth dros 15 mlynedd yn ôl, ydych chi'n gweld bod statws a phroffil y Gymraeg wedi cynyddu yn y Fro?

Do yn bendant ac rwy'n gobeithio bod yr ysgol wedi gwneud cyfraniad pwysig yn hyn o beth. Dechreuwyd YGBM gyda 123 o ddisgyblion. Cyn pen dim fe fydd 1500 yn yr ysgol. Mae dwy ysgol gynradd newydd wedi eu sefydlu yn ddiweddar. Beth sydd yn braf yw cael sgwrs ar strydoedd yr ardal gyda rhieni sydd wedi dewis danfon eu plant at ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg oherwydd llwyddiant ein hysgolion. Testun balchder oedd bod Eisteddfod 2012 wedi gwneud elw ac wedi bod yn llwyddiant yn wyneb sawl her gan gynnwys y gemau Olympaidd yn Llundain.

Dwedwch ychydig wrthom am eich swydd newydd.

Rwy'n mynd i fod yn Ddeon Addysg Prifysgol y Drindod Dewi Sant. Mae nifer o newidiadau ar droed ym myd hyfforddi athrawon a'r nod yw arwain y Gyfadran yn ystod y cyfnod yma. Rydym yn anelu at greu Athrofa Addysg Genedlaethol fydd yn ganolbwynt arbenigedd addysg a hyfforddiant i Gymru gyfan.

Beth ydy'ch diddordebau?

Chwaraeon - heb unrhyw amheuaeth!

Beth yw eich uchelgais am y ddeng mlynedd nesaf?

Fod yr Athrofa yn cael ei gweld fel un o'r goreuon yn y DU ac ein bod yn darparu athrawon o'r radd flaenaf. Mae pobl ifanc y wlad yn haeddu hyn ac mae ein hathrawon yn haeddu'r gefnogaeth broffesiynol orau posib.

Gyda phwy fasech chi'n hoffi cael pryd o fwyd?

Heblaw am un rhamantus gyda Glenda! – teulu a ffrindiau agos bob tro. Ym myd chwaraeon, John Charles. O fyd hanes, yr unigolyn o'r ddeunawfed ganrif oedd yn destun fy nhraethawd PhD, er mwyn i mi gael gweld pa mor gywir oedd fy namcaniaethau amdano! Os oeddwn yn gywir mae'n debygol na fyddwn yn rhoi ail wahoddiad am ginio iddo. Roedd yn ddyn diflas iawn!

Pwy ydych chi'n eu hedmygu?

Pobl sy'n llwyddo ac yn cyflawni heb fynd yn hunanbwysig. Heb ei fai heb ei eni.

Beth yw eich gwyliau delfrydol?

Nid oes un math arbennig. Ond gan amlaf dwi'n mwynhau orau pan rwyf yn gwneud rhywbeth. Nid wyf yn un da am eistedd i lawr wrth y pwll am oriau er fod hyn yn apelgar iawn ar hyn o bryd!

Lle yw eich hoff dafarn neu fwyty yn y Fro?

Bwyty - Arboreal a Market Place. Tafarn - lle bynnag mae'r hogia yn cytuno i fynd ar achlysuron arbennig. Sdim ots pa dafarn yr awn ni iddi da ni'n dueddol o droi'n hen ddynion blin yn rhamantu am yr oes a fu. Mae rhai yn waeth na'i gilydd cofiwch. Gan amla' y Vale neu'r Duke yn y Bontfaen sy'n gorfod ein croesawu.

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Diolch o galon i Ganolfan y Mileniwm, Gwenda Owen a'r band, ond yn bennaf i bawb daeth i Jambori yr Urdd eleni.

Dyma rhai lluniau o'r digwyddiad.

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gan EIRY PALFREY

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Pobl sy'n hoffi moethusrwydd a'r gorau o bob peth. Prynwch lun gwreiddiol mewn olew, planhigyn neu flodau – byddai unrhyw beth i'r ardd yn plesio. Gemau, tlysau, mwclis. Bwydydd moethus fel pate de foie gras, pwdin plwm o Harrods, neu botel o Bort (vintage). Mae gydan nhw wendid am siocledi – drud. Hoff liw: glas, pinc.

GEMINI:
Pobl brysur, amryddawn sy'n haeddu anrheg i hwyluso eu bywyd hectic. Dyma gyfathrebwyr y sidydd a mi fydden nhw wrth eu bodd yn cael tabled neu iphone 6, neu beiriant karaoke...neu falle sebon ar siâp meicroffon iddyn nhw gael canu yn y bath. Eu hoff liw yw melyn.

CANCER:
Mae rhain wrth eu bodd yn gofalu am bethau – ci, cath, tedi bêr neu blanhigyn. Rhowch anrheg i harddu'u cartref, yn enwedig os yw e'n arian neu'n antique. Maen nhw'n dwlu ar gasglu pethau stampiau, siwgiau, hen lwyau – rhywbeth. Prynwch ddillad cynnes – siol neu sgarff. Hoff liw – arian neu lwyd golau.

LEO:
Pobl hael sy'n hoffi creu argraff, ond os y'ch am ddal yn ffrindie gofalwch nad yw'ch anrheg chi yn well na'r un gawsoch chi wrthyn nhw! Prynwch rhywbeth i harddu'r gwallt – crib, rhuban, lliw. Rhowch docynnau theatr, cinio moethus, drych, gemau mawr, recordiau CD, neu ddillad 'flashy'. A'u hoff liwiau yw aur, melyn ac oren.

VIRGO:
Pobl drefnus gyda lle i bob peth. Mi fyddan nhw'n mwynhau cael dyddiadur electronig, filing cabinet, Geiriadur, Encyclopaedia. Dyma'r unig arwydd sy'n croesawu anrhegion o sebon neu aftershave. A mi fyddan nhw wrth eu bodd yn cael voucher i'r Clwb Iechyd. Hoff liwiau – nefi a llwyd.

LIBRA:
Pobl hawdd i'w plesio ond i chi roi rhywbeth moethus i'w helpu i ymlacio – potel o siampên, neu fyblbath. Pobl ramantus sy'n hoffi'r gorau – cinio i ddau, objets d'art chwaethus, perlau.... Danfonwch flodau neu prynwch CDs clasurol – fel Pavarotti neu Margaret Williams. Hoff liwiau: pinc neu las golau.

SCORPIO:
Pobl ddwfn a rhywiol sydd wrth eu bodd gydag ymchwil a sgandal – prynwch y Bywgraffiadur, Encyclopaedia, neu rhowch rhywbeth mewn lleder iddyn nhw... Potel o rywbeth bach cryf...neu gês o win coch...llyfrau ias a chyffro... Hoff liwiau: coch tywyll a du.

SAGITTARIUS:
Mae rhain yn hoffi antur, teithio a gadjets – prynwch docyn sengl i Beru, taith lawr yr Amazon... neu brosesydd bwyd – camera awtomatig, agorydd tun trydan.... Maen nhw'n hoffi ceffylau, cŵn mawr, ceir cyflym a chwaraeon, felly prynwch rywbeth sy'n ymwneud â'r rheiny. Tocynnau theatr, whisky, gwersi hedfan. Hoff liw: porffor.

CAPRICORN:
Pobl synhwyrol ac uchelgeisiol fyddai'n gwerthfawrogi anrheg ymarferol dibynnol fel Rolls Royce, Miele, Rolex neu Cartier. Neu rhowch rywbeth syml chwaethus iddyn nhw wedi ei lapio mewn papur Harrods. Mae llyfrau swmpus bob tro'n dderbyniol neu falwn i godi'u hysbryd. Lliwiau sobor – dim byd llachar – brown, du neu las tywyll.

AQUARIUS:
Mae rhain yn mwynhau spreis, a byddai unrhyw beth newydd a gwirion yn apelio fel cloc larwm sy'n esgus bod yn bêl griced, neu oriawr sy'n cynnau sigarets. Rhowch ddillad llachar streips o bob lliw, neu dei bô chwirligwgan lurex. Prynwch gemau bwrdd gwirion, amhosib i'w deall. Hoff liw yw glas llachar, streips a checks.

PISCES:
Pobl artistig, emosiynol – prynwch facynon poced pert, pysgod aur neu fotel o rhywbeth cryf. Maen nhw wrth eu boddau gyda sgidiau, sane silc du neu sliperi cynnes. Rhowch ddillad rhamantus iddyn nhw mewn chiffon neu felfed. Prynwch ganhwyllau, arogldarth neu docynnau i'r sinema. Hoff liwiau yw gwyrdd y môr a fioled.

ANGHARAD

DOES unman yn debyg i gartre medd yr hen ddywediad ac yn sicr does unman yn debyg i'r Bontfaen adeg y Nadolig.

Mae prydferthwch y coed bach ar waliau'r adeiladau hynod ar hyd y brif stryd yn ryfeddod. Does dim llawer o fantesion i'r nosweithiau hir tywyll heblaw bod oriau'n rhagor i werthfawrogi disgleirdeb Nadoligaidd y goleuadau godidog.

Ond mae sawl rheswm i ni wneud mwy na dim ond gwerthfawrogi'r goleuadau. Er mor hawdd yw'r siopau mawr, a phrynu arlein, mae'n bwysig hefyd ein bod yn siopa yn y dre neu bydd y siopau bach unigryw yn gorfod cau. Gallai hyny fod yn drychineb i hen dre farchnad fel y Bontfaen sy'n dibynnu ar ei hynodrwydd i ddenu busnes a chwsmeriaid.

Cyn rhuthro arlein felly dyma bwyntiau sy'n werth eu hystyried: bydd eich arian yn rhoi hwb i'r economi lleol – am bob punt sy'n cael ei wario mewn busnes bach mae 63c yn aros yn yr economi leol o'i gymharu a 40c gyda busnes mawr.

Y dewis moesol yw i brynu'n lleol a phrynu cynnyrch o fwtseriaid a gwerthwyr llysiau a ffrwythau lleol. Yn ogystal a chefnogi ffermwyr yr ardal bydd mwy o faeth yn y bwyd a llai o blastig lapio gwastraffus.

Mae siopau bach annibynnol yn llawn o anrhegion bach gwahanol ac unigryw sy'n anodd iawn i ddod o hyd iddynt ar y we neu mewn siopau mawr sy'n prynu popeth fesul llwyth.

Mae prynu'n lleol yn gymorth i gynnal cymunedau. Mae sawl siop fach yn cynnig digwyddiadau bach, boed yn grwpiau gwnio neu wau neu weithgareddau i'r plant. Os yw'r busnesau yn diflannu mae grwpiau cymunedol yn debygol o fynd ar gyfeiliorn hefyd. Mewn marchnadoedd Nadolig mae pwrpas cymdeithasol yn aml i'r stondinau – maent yn cynnig gwerth cyhoeddus yn ogystal â llefydd i brynu.

Mae gwerthwyr lleol yn debygol o roi gostyngiad i brynwyr ffyddlon, ac mae dod i adnabod y perchennog hefyd yn golygu y cewch gyngor da.

Ac felly rwyf wedi dod i'r casgliad mae'r peth gorau i'w wneud yn ysbryd yr wyl eleni yw i ddechrau adduned flwyddyn newydd yn gynnar, a chefnogi mwy o'r siopau bach sy'n dod a'r fath amrywiaeth gwych i'r Bontfaen. Welai chi yno. A Nadolig Llawen i chi gyd!

DYSGWYR YN MWYNHAU'R CWRS SADWRN

Daeth dros 50 o ddysgwyr Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg at ei gilydd ar ddydd Sadwrn 7fed Tachwedd i fwynhau Cwrs Sadwrn ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd

Thema'r Cwrs Sadwrn oedd Tywysogion a Chestyll Cymru. Roedd y dosbarthiadau yn llawn hwyl wrth i'r tiwtoriaid gwisgo fel tywysogion a chroeso siaradwr gwadd a oedd yn sôn am y Normaniaid. I gloi'r cwrs roedd cwis cerddoriaeth, roedd hwn yn gyfle gwych i'r dysgwyr ddod at ei gilydd ac ymarfer eu Cymraeg â phobl oedd ar lefelau gwahanol.

Dywedodd Glyn Wise, trefnydd y cwrs: "Mae'n hyfryd i weld cymaint o ddysgwyr ar lefelau gwahanol yn dod at ei gilydd i fwynhau ac ymarfer eu Cymraeg".

Beth am ddod ar y Cwrs Calan i ymarfer eich Cymraeg sydd ar yr 2il a'r 3ydd o Ionawr ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd? Am ragor o wybodaeth ewch i www.learnwelsh.co.uk neu ffoniwch 029 2087 4710.

Gweithgareddau Cyfrwng Cymraeg Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

Clwb Llyfrau

Bydd cyfarfod nesaf y Clwb Llyfrau ar nos Lun Rhagfyr 7fed, 19.30-20.30 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston, a byddwn yn trafod 'Afallon' gan Robat Gruffydd.

Darlith

'Ynni – Pŵer i'r dyfodol' gan Gareth Clubb (Cyfeillion y Ddaear Cymru) – dydd Sadwrn Rhagfyr 12fed, 11-12 yn Llyfrgell y Barri.

Dathliad Nadolig Cymreig

Crefftau, carolau a gweithgareddau traddodiadol – Nos Lun Rhagfyr 14eg, 18.30-20.30 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

Am fanylion pellach, cysylltwch â Mared Furnham: mnfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk / 01446 733762

Whodunnit at the Belfreey Hotel?

The cast of the murder mystery evening at Brynhill Golf Club.

Brynhill Golf Club members and guests were recently entertained to 'murder and mystery' in the Belfreey Hotel (Brynhill lounge).

The guests were shown to their tables and the cast started a highly hysterical evening's entertainment. Mr Ivor Bookin, hotel manager (Mike Underdown) put on a great performance with his wife Mrs Phyllis Bookin (played by Judy Davies), who also portrayed Inspector Laura Norder.

Nurse Cathy Trerize (Glynis Gould) was the long-suffering subject of Ivor's affections.

The waiter, Vinnie de Tableau (Tony Davies), and Sylvia the chambermaid (Sam Pascoe), both played their parts admirably.

The elf and safety prompter (Jo Kirkpatrick) was not called upon too often, as the cast had worked extremely hard and there was much hysterical ad libbing.

The cast were given a standing ovation at the end of the performance. ***JK***

MP calls for clarity on car parking policy

VALE MP Alun Cairns is calling on the Vale Council to clarify its position on proposed car parking charges – after council leader Neil Moore suggested that charges may not go ahead.

Mr Cairns met with over 100 businesses that could be affected by parking charges in the Vale last week.

Traders who met with Vale Council recently were unanimous in calling for the council to scrap plans to charge, and following the comments from Mr Moore, the Vale MP is calling for clarity to boost new starters on the high street.

In last week's GEM, the Vale leader gave a heavy hint that the council is unlikely to proceed with the planned charges. He wrote: "I can confirm that as a council we will be seriously reconsidering if (and it's a big if), we should introduce car parking charges in Barry and Cowbridge town centres, after having conversations with local people and traders in both towns."

Mr Cairns said: "Coun Moore has indicated that he has listened to the valid concerns of traders, and to his credit he is showing the necessary leadership to get the policy right.

"I am concerned that allowing the uncertainty to drag on will stop new shops opening.

"I have been told that a number of new businesses are, understandably, holding off signing leases until the policy on car parking is clarified."

Department for Work & Pensions

IF YOU WERE
born on or after 6th April 1951
OR
born on or after 6th April 1953
THIS APPLIES TO YOU

Our State Pension is changing

Knowing how much to expect from your State Pension will help you plan for your future

The State Pension is being changed in April 2016 to make it easier to understand in the future. How much you get depends on your National Insurance record. If you're 55 or over you can request a State Pension statement based on the new rules.

To find out more information about what you're entitled to and how to order a State Pension statement visit:
www.gov.uk/yourstatepension

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

THE STATE PENSION IS CHANGING – KNOW THE FACTS

THE State Pension is a regular payment from the government most of us can claim when we reach State Pension age. On 6 April 2016, the new State Pension will be introduced for women born on or after the 6 April 1953, and men born on or after 6 April 1951. The changes to the current system will make it less complicated in the future..

If you were born before these dates, you'll continue to receive your State Pension under the current scheme, even if you defer claiming it.

How much will I get?

This will depend on your National Insurance (NI) record so not everyone will get the same amount. You'll normally need at least 10 qualifying years to get any State Pension. These can be from before or after 6 April 2016, and don't have to be ten years in a row.

The full amount of the new State Pension will be around £155.65 a week but you may get more or less than this depending on your past NI record.

No one who qualifies for the new State Pension should get less than they would have received under the old system, based on their own contributions to April 2016.

What if you are or were in a pension scheme at work?

If you are or were in a salary-related pension scheme at work (for example, "final salary" or "career average"), or you were in any type of pension scheme at work before April 2012, you are likely to have been "contracted-out" of the Additional State Pension. (This is part of the current State Pension system). Some stakeholder and personal pension schemes were also "contracted-out".

If you have been contracted-out of the Additional State Pension this means you paid less NI into the State system and built up some private pension instead. However, your private pension should include an amount that, in most cases, will be at least equivalent to the Additional State Pension you contracted-out of.

The actual amount you'll receive from your contracted-out pension scheme will depend on the scheme.

From April 2016, contracting-out will end as will the reduced NI rate contracted-out employers and employees have been paying.

Department for Work & Pensions

How can I increase my State Pension?

National Insurance (NI) credits can help fill gaps in your NI record. They may increase the amount of new State Pension you get when you reach State Pension age.

You may also be able to pay voluntary contributions to fill gaps you may have for recent years on your NI record. Check your position before you do this to ensure you can benefit.

You may be able to increase your State Pension if you are working and paying NI contributions.

If you choose to defer claiming your new State Pension when you reach State Pension age, you may build up extra State Pension. Not everyone can defer – please check whether you are eligible.

National Insurance Credits that you might get

You can get credits in various circumstances which might include:

• Caring for one or more disabled people, for at least 20 hours a week.

• Receiving certain benefits, such as Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Carers Allowance.

• Caring for a grandchild or other family member under the age of 12.

Find out what this means for you by visiting www.gov.uk/yourstatepension.

If you are aged 55 or over you can ask for a State Pension statement for an estimate of your

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Talented pupils' mosaic artwork goes on show

PUPILS, staff and parents of Colcot Primary School are delighted with the new mosaic mural that has been completed this term.

Pupils were asked to base their drawings on their 10 school values. and artist Kate Derbyshire worked with them, using their drawings to design a spectacular mural for the playground wall. Every pupil had the opportunity to work with Kate on various stages of the artwork.

The younger pupils made clay hand prints and decorated them; the older pupils worked with the coloured tiles to make the mosaic featuring the ten values.

The colours chosen in the art work are bright and bold and bring sunshine to the playground even on a wet, grey day!

ME

Black dogs were looking for love on Black Friday

JET.

LOLA.

ON Black Friday, there was no 'retail therapy' for residents at Dogs Trust Bridgend – but the rehoming centre is taking the opportunity to celebrate three black dog residents in the hope that it will help them to find loving new homes.

Lola, Seren and Jet are all looking for homes, and staff were hoping Black Friday would prove lucky for the trio.

Supporter Relations Officer, Linda Feagan explained: "We thought it would be the perfect opportunity to celebrate the wonderful black dogs in our care! They are all such superb characters and they really deserve to find a loving new home – we thought if any day would be lucky for them, then surely it's Black Friday!"

Call Dogs Trust on 0300 303 0292 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk/ www.cowbridge-today.co.uk/ www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk/ www.bridgend-today.co.uk/www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

PC's arresting award for fighting wildlife crime

ABOVE PC Mark Goulding with Chief Constable Simon Prince and Sarah Goddard from WWF-UK. Photo by G Shorrock, RSPB.

PC MARK GOULDING of South Wales Police, currently on secondment to Natural Resources Wales, has won the WWF-Sponsored Wildlife Law Enforcer of the Year Award 2015 for tackling fishing poaching and raising awareness among partner agencies.

He received his award from Sarah Goddard, Species Policy Officer at WWF-UK, and Chief Constable Simon Prince of Dyfed-Powys Police at the National Wildlife Crime Enforcers Conference at Leamington Spa. Law enforcers, statutory agencies and NGOs had gathered to hear about successes and challenges in combating wildlife crime in the UK.

PC Goulding, who developed the River Taff Project with colleagues from Natural Resources Wales, has helped reduce poaching on the river between Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil, and a number of prosecutions are currently ongoing, thanks to his work.

Also thanks to his work, three men were prosecuted for releasing into the wild a viable breeding population of wild boar following a commercial burglary.

PC Goulding has recently taken on the responsibility of being the historic and ancient monument crime single point of contact for South Wales Police and reports to the force's Assistant Chief Constable.

He has recovered a fossil from a historical theft on a site of special scientific interest in mid Wales and is currently working on a case of damage in the Gower.

Barry at War Christmas crafts fair

THERE will be a fair at Barry Island Station on Sunday, December 13 from 11am – 3pm, with handmade cards and gifts made by local crafters.

The Barry War Museum and Railway Café will be open and the tourist railway Santa Specials will also be running.

Age Connects in a call for volunteers

AGE CONNECTS Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan is appealing for volunteers to continue the success of a 'Let's Get Out' project and reach out to more elderly people.

The service aims to reduce loneliness, isolation and improve wellbeing, but needs more volunteers.

Vale co-ordinator Samantha Jones said: "We are finding a real need for this kind of service in and around Barry; sadly, at the moment we do not have the volunteer resources to help everyone who needs it. We are looking for volunteers to accompany an older person to a lunch group, out for a cup of tea, or simply a stroll around the shops.

"If anyone has an hour or so a week to help, please get in touch."

Iris, who has lived in Barry for many years, found the project a great help after she broke her hip.

Having been previously quite independent, she found the weekly walk to her local shops overwhelming, to the point where she couldn't leave the house alone.

Contact Samantha on 07584 346014 for more information, or if you would like to help out.

Use your Welsh around Bridgend county!

MENTER Bro Ogwr promotes and furthers the use of the Welsh language in Bridgend county. The intention is to raise the profile of the Welsh language in the county by increasing the opportunities for residents to use the language in a variety of fields. This is what's going on this month:

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday: Porthcawl Coffee morning for Welsh learners and speakers, YMCA Porthcawl, 11am-12am; Science Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr pupils, lunchtime, free; Arts and Crafts Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr pupils, 3.30pm–4.30pm, £1 a session.

Tuesday: Bridgend coffee morning for Welsh learners and speakers, Tŷ Coffi Bridgend, 10am-11am; Animation Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw pupils, lunchtime, free.

Wednesday: DJ lessons club, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, lunchtime; Art Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr pupils, lunchtime, free; Youth Club, Bridgend YMCA, 6pm-8pm, £1 a session.

Thursday: Playground Games Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant pupils, lunchtime, free; Siop Siarad, Siop Yr Hen Bont, Bridgend – a chance for Welsh learners to ask questions and practice their Welsh with other learners. Every Thursday, Group 1: 12.45pm-1.30pm, Practicing Mynediad and Sylfaen patterns; Group 2: 1.30pm-2.15pm Start chatting in Welsh; Group 3: 2.15pm-3pm. For those who can hold a conversation in Welsh.

Dydd Gwener: Youth Club, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, lunchtime.

For more information, contact Menter Bro Ogwr 01656 732200, menter@broogwr.org, 07774 032624. Follow us on Facebook a Twitter for all the latest news.

Defnyddiwch eich Cymraeg ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr!

MAE Menter Bro Ogwr yn hybu ac yn hyrwyddo'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg yn sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Bwriad y Fenter yw codi proffil yr iaith Gymraeg yn y sir gan gynyddu cyfleoedd trigolion o bob oedran ddefnyddio'r iaith mewn amrywiaeth o feysydd. Dyma beth sy'n digwydd gyda ni mis yma:

Digwyddiadau wythnosol:

Dydd Llun: Bore Coffi Porthcawl i ddysgwyr a Chymry Cymraeg, YMCA Porthcawl, 11-12yp; clwb Gwyddoniaeth i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr, amser cinio, am ddim; Clwb Celf a Chreffi i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, 3.30pm–4.30pm, £1 y sesiwn.

Dydd Mawrth: Bore Coffi Pen-y-bont i ddysgwyr a Chymry Cymraeg, Caffi Tŷ Coffi Pen-y-bont, 10-11yb; Clwb Animeiddio i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, amser cinio, am ddim.

Dydd Mercher: Clwb Gwersi DJ, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, amser cinio; Clwb Celf i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr, amser cinio, am ddim; Clwb Ieuenctid, YMCA Pen-y-bont, 6-8yh, £1 y sesiwn.

Dydd Iau: Clwb Gemau iard i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant, amser cinio, am ddim; Siop Siarad, Siop Yr Hen Bont, Pen-y-bont, Cyfle i ddysgwyr holi cwestiynau, ymarfer a gloywi eu Cymraeg, ynghyd â dysgwyr o'r un lefel. Pob Dydd Iau Grŵp 1: 12.45pm-1.30pm. Ymarfer patrymau iaith lefelau Mynediad a Sylfaen; Grŵp 2: 1.30pm-2.15pm. Dechrau sgwrsio yn Gymraeg; Grŵp 3: 2.15pm-3pm. I bobl sy'n gallu cynnal sgwrs Gymraeg.

Dydd Gwener: Clwb ieuenctid, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, amser cinio.

Am ragor o fanylion cysylltwch â ni! Menter Bro Ogwr 01656 732200; menter@broogwr.org; 07774 032624. Dilynwch ni ar Facebook a Twitter am y newyddion diweddaraf!

Menter Bro Ogwr annual general meeting 2015

ARE you passionate about the Welsh language? Would you like to play a role in the developments of the language in Bridgend county? We need you!

Menter Bro Ogwr promotes and furthers the use of the Welsh language by co-operating with associations, societies, businesses, learners and schools. The initiative's intention is to raise the profile of the Welsh language in the county by increasing the opportunities for residents to use the language in a variety of fields.

Menter Bro Ogwr was established in 1993 by a few enthusiasts who wanted to ensure that the Welsh language had a voice in the county. The intention of the initiative was to raise the profile of the language in Bro Ogwr by offering opportunities for people to use Welsh in addition to fostering confidence and increasing the number of new Welsh speakers.

Menter Bro Ogwr's annual meeting is being held this Thursday (December 3) in The Farmers, Nottage, Porthcawl at 7pm.

You are welcome to join us to hear about Menter Bro Ogwr's work over the last year. Menter Bro Ogwr is also looking for new members for our management committee and this meeting is your opportunity to be elected. Join us and let's see the Welsh language thriving in Bro Ogwr!

AJE

Cyfarfod Blynyddol Menter Bro Ogwr 2015

YDYCH chi'n teimlo'n angerddol dros yr iaith Gymraeg? Hoffech chi chwarae rhan yn natblygiadau'r Gymraeg yn sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr? 'Dyn ni eich angen chi!

Mae Menter Bro Ogwr yn hybu ac yn hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg drwy gydweithio â mudiadau, cymdeithasau, busnesau, dysgwyr ac ysgolion. Bwriad y Fenter yw codi proffil yr iaith Gymraeg yn y sir gan gynyddu cyfleoedd trigolion o bob oedran i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg mewn amrywiaeth o feysydd.

Sefydlwyd Menter Bro Ogwr yn Hydref 1993 gan griw o wirfoddolwyr oedd eisiau sicrhau llais i'r iaith Gymraeg. Nod y Fenter oedd codi proffil yr iaith ym Mro Ogwr drwy gynnig cyfleoedd i bobl ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn ogystal â magu hyder a chynyddu'r nifer o siaradwyr Cymraeg newydd.

Bydd Cyfarfod Blynyddol Menter Bro Ogwr yn cael eio gynnal ar nos Iau, Ragfyr 3 yn The Farmers, Notais, Porthcawl am 7yh.

Dyma gyfle i chi glywed am waith y Fenter dros y flwyddyn diwethaf. Rydym hefyd yn edrych am aelodau newydd ar gyfer ein pwyllgor rheoli ac mae'r cyfarfod yma'n gyfle i chi gael eich ethol. Ymunwch â ni er mwyn gweld y Gymraeg yn ffynnu ym Mro Ogwr!

AJE

WHY OWNER LEFT PET WITH THE DOGS TRUST...

'He won't fit in my handbag'

DOGS TRUST, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend, has teamed up with some famous faces to launch'A Dog is For Life, Not Just For Christmas', following a year of ludicrous excuses by owners when giving up their pets.

Staff at Dogs Trust Bridgend were taken aback to hear a member of the public say they no longer wanted their dog because they didn't think it was a pedigree!

The line-up of celebrity dog lovers includes *Sky News*'s Eamonn Holmes, *Sherlock*'s Amanda Abbington, *Great British Bake Off*'s Mel Giedroyc and comedian Jon Richardson, whose shocked reactions were captured as they read out the farcical and sometimes bizarre excuses given by members of the public who no longer want their dogs.

The charity's staff have recorded the most preposterous excuses heard over the last 12 months.

These included: "He's too perfect;" "the fence was hit by lightning so we took it as a sign that we shouldn't have a dog;" "he chewed my model helicopter;" "he kept chewing the grandchildren's nappies;" "all he does is sleep;" "he doesn't bark;" "he looked different after we walked him in the rain;" "he won't fit in my handbag or wear the clothes I bought him."

Dogs Trust Bridgend, Supporter Relations Officer, Linda Feagan explained: "Sadly, there are many understandable reasons why people have to give up their dogs and we appreciate that circumstances can change beyond their control. However we cannot fathom that dogs should lose their security, comfort and home for such reasons they as "ate the banoffee pie" or "sat in front of the TV when the football was on."

New integrated transport plan could transform Wales' future

AN ambitious plan for a Metro integrated transport system in south Wales took a step forwards this week when the First Minister launched a campaign to raise awareness.

The scheme is expected to see a substantial increase in speed and frequency of public transport, using a combination of heavy rail, light rail and bus rapid transit, as well as other infrastructure improvements and integrated ticketing.

Carwyn Jones AM said he was delighted with the response from industry: "The Metro project represents the future of public transport in south-east Wales and will provide faster journey times and more frequent services covering a greater area. It is an ambitious project linking people and jobs across south Wales in a fast, efficient and environmentally positive way.

"The Metro is far more than just a transport project. It will be a catalyst for transforming the economic and social prospects of south-east Wales and the country as a whole," he predicted.

IN BRIEF

Advice surgery

DYFAN ward councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will hold an advice surgery on Saturday, December 5 at Buttrills Community Centre on North Walk, Barry from 10am to 11am. No appointment is necessary.

Nazareth fair

THE Nazareth Baptist Chapel, Bryncethin, holds its Christmas fair on Saturday, December 5.

Primary pupils get a special visit from musical Santas!

Lloyd Pearce (trombone), Corey Morris (trumpet), with Debbie Roblin from Western Power Distribution. Photo by Patrick Olner.

OAK Field primary school pupils had a special visit from musicians and puppeteers from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Cardiff, who will be welcoming the children at the college to see *Santa's Stressful Day*.

Poor Santa! It's the day before Christmas Eve; the reindeer have all got terrible colds and might not be able to pull the sleigh.

So a very stressed-out Santa heads out around the world to try and find some other animals who could do the job instead.

He has just one day to find substitutes, or the world's children won't get their presents...

The college and Western Power are sponsoring the production. ND

PUPILS REPORT ON THEIR PROGRESS TO PARENTS...

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 students welcomed their parents/guardians and families to a recent pupil progress presentation evening.

They gave presentations to demonstrate the progress made since joining the school in September, focusing on English, maths and a subject of their choice.

As part of a school/home partnership, parents were asked to note targets for improvement and support materials were available to make sure the whole family can join-in and make the most of the learning opportunities available.

David Williams, senior learning mentor for year -7 said: "It was a delight to see so many parents involve themselves in the pupil progress evening. Hopefully, we can continue to work together to improve the learning of all pupils."

PICTURED ABOVE:
Year-7 students at the comprehensive report on their progress to their mums and dads...

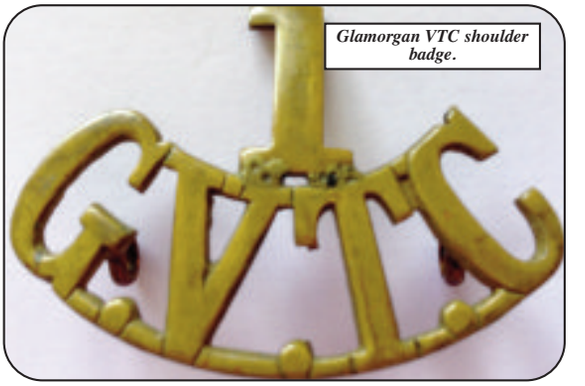
Two momentous events that marked December 1915

Amid the carnage, poppies become immortalised on Flanders Field

by Ceri Joseph

The Porthcawl Hotel.

The Esplanade Hotel.



Glamorgan VTC shoulder badge.

The National School, Lias Road.

The Coliseum.

TWO significant, yet initially unrelated events took place in December 1915, which were to prove influential in the years to come.

Douglas Haig replaced Sir John French as Commander in Chief of the British Army and John McCrae's poem 'On Flanders Field' was published, anonymously, in *Punch* magazine on December 8.

Lt Col John McCrae, a Canadian doctor, had been inspired by the appearance of poppies growing in the battlefield, after losing a friend at Ypres in the spring of 1915.

Douglas Haig, who had distinguished himself as Commander of the 1st Corps of the BEF at Mons and Ypres, became Supreme Commander of the British Army on December 16.

Evidence suggests that he played an active role in French's downfall, informing King George V that he had little confidence in Sir John French's command, but that he, Haig, "would be willing to do his duty in any capacity."

Consequently Haig himself would be remembered for the carnage of 'The Somme' the following year, for which his lack of tactical awareness would be nationally criticised .

Conversely, the poppy immortalised in the poem 'On Flanders Field' would become synonymous with the fallen. Not just with World War 1 casualties, but eventually adopted as a symbol of Remembrance for all British military engagements.

The Royal British Legion formed in 1921 raised over £106,000 from the first ever 'Poppy Appeal.' A French lady, Anna Guerin had bought the nine million poppies sold in Britain, but in 1922 Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen.

Interestingly, demand for poppies was so high in Britain in the ensuing years that Douglas Haig's wife established the Lady Haig Poppy Factory in Edinburgh in 1926.

Porthcawl's branch of the Royal British Legion was formed in 1924, evolving out of the local organisation Comrades of the Great War.

The Gallipoli campaign resulted in 250,000 Allied casualties. December 11 witnessed the final withdrawal of the severely depleted 53rd Welsh Division from Gallipoli to Alexandria, where in the New Year they would be involved in military action defending Serbia and Greece against the Bulgarians.

However, prior to the Welsh arriving, one Porthcawlian had already seen action at Salonika in the Battle of Kosturino. Prior to landing on Salonika, 2nd Lieutenant Charles Alan Smith Morris, Clevis House, Newton, Porthcawl had already seen active service, being wounded in his right knee at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle the previous March 1915.

On November 18, 1915 2nd Lt Morris, one of a 350-strong Bedfordshire Regiment contingent, landed at Salonika attached to the 5th Royal Irish Fusiliers, whose number had been depleted to 280 due to their involvement in the Gallipoli Campaign.

As part of the restructuring, the 20-year-old 2nd Lt Morris found himself in command of a company, despite having only seen around 24 hours of service on a front line by that time.

He kept a diary in which he describes his time at 'Rocky Peak', which would eventually become part of what became known as the Battle of Kosturino between the forces of Bulgaria and Great Britain.

Morris wrote on December 3, 1915: 'When we got to the Regiment, (November 28) we had a very thin time, no tents, huts or billets, but just a bivouac where you were out in the open. It was freezing hard at night then, the men had nothing, except one blanket and a waterproof sheet.

'The next night it rained, and we all got very wet, as there is no cover and nowhere to dry anything.' He continued: 'The next night it got much colder and snowed, and all the next day, ending up with about four inches of snow on the ground.'

Lt Morris then explains how the Company Commander went sick with jaundice and he had to take command. After four days, the company ended up further up the line on a rocky peak.

The blizzards that welcomed December took their toll on his men. Many went down with frostbite, lost their toes, all of which weakened the regiment.

However, it did not weaken Morris's resolve. Describing their position as 4,000 foot up in the mountains, with no roads and deserted villages, Morris relates how – 'The Bulgars don't seem a bit keen on fighting and a lot of them have been giving themselves up.'

Yet on December 7, Lt Morris led an assault on the 'Bulgars' stronghold as the fog descended. According to dispatches, Morris got shot in the right shoulder and 'vanished in the fog.'

In his diary, he describes how he had to walk a few miles to the nearest dressing station

Lt Col John McCrae.

Lt CAS Morris.

before being transferred onto a hospital ship, bound for England.

Major Charles Alan Smith Morris, as he is later to be addressed, sadly did not survive the war. His story, which was related in April's issue, stated that he died on May 7, 1917, near Arras.

Meanwhile, back in Porthcawl on the second week in December, 124 men enlisted into the services at the Esplanade; and the first meeting took place of the Porthcawl branch of the Glamorgan Voluntary Training Corps.

The need to play their part in the war was keenly felt among those outside enlisting age, or those with genuine reasons unable to join the regular army.

The scheme was viewed more as a home defence organisation against a German invasion. Nationally, the Volunteer Training Corps was suspended in December 1918. It was officially disbanded in January 1920, with the exception of the Volunteer Motor Corps, which was retained until April 1921 in case of civil disorder. The idea would emerge again as the Home Guard in World War 2.

Amid a time of fear and heartache, the Christmas spirit still endured. In response to a national request for footballs for the front, the Rev DG Samuel, the newly-appointed curate to the parish, presented one to the 23rd Pioneer Battalion, stationed at the town.

Further, Christmas dinner for the 150 wounded men of the Welsh Regiment Danygraig camp was served at 1pm at the Porthcawl Hotel, and was paid for and provided by the management of the Porthcawl Coliseum (the Spar today).

A thousand cigarettes were also supplied by the children of the Porthcawl Council Schools, who had trawled the town during the month, collecting their gift.

The 90 wounded soldiers at 'The Rest' were also treated to a Christmas dinner at 5pm and an evening of entertainment; but they enjoyed the fruit and sweets provided by the children of Porthcawl's private schools.

The month ended with the news that, on December 28, the British Government had agreed to introduce compulsory military service, with single men to be conscripted before married ones.

The Military Services Act was passed in January 1916; and came into force in March, that same year.

CERI JOSEPH
Porthcawl Museu

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www.barry-today.co.uk/ www.cowbridge-today.co.uk/ www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk www.bridgend-today.co.uk/ www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

SHOP LOCAL

Support Local Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

Stay up to date with all the latest offers from businesses in and around your area by reading The GEM every week!

Sully Christmas Markets

at Sully Sports & Social Club, South Road, Sully, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 5SP

10am to 4pm

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December
Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th December
Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th December

Come and enjoy our Christmas Markets!

Carvery on Sundays from 12 noon to 3pm
Festive Children's Workshops on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon • Craft & Gift Stalls • Farmers' Market Stalls • Food Stalls

For more details: www.sullysportsclub.com
www.facebook.com/SullySportsandSocialClub
www.facebook.com/SullyCarBootSale

'LET'S GET OUT AND SHOP LOCALLY,' CALL

Support the 'lifeblood of local communities' on Small Business Saturday

RETAILERS and local politicians are urging people in general to support 'Small Business Saturday' by getting out and shopping at local, independent businesses on December 5.

Small Business Saturday UK is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign, which highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.

The day itself takes place on the first shopping Saturday in December each year, but the campaign aims to have a lasting impact on small businesses.

Described as the "lifeblood of the economy, it was revealed this week by Welsh Government statisticians that there have been 13,735 new start-ups since 2011.

Economy Minister Edwina Hart AM said: "Over 99 per cent (almost 218,000) of businesses in Wales are Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs), and these employ 60 per cent of the people working in the private sector.

"Small Business Saturday is an opportunity to recognise the role of entrepreneurs and small businesses in building a strong economy, encouraging growth and creating jobs."

Small Business Saturday UK's website at the moment features 100 small businesses, and a glance at this (*https://www.smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com*) only goes to show how many bright ideas are out there – ideas that add to the variety of life, and which may well grow into something much bigger.

With the number 100 in mind, Vale MP Alun Cairns set out to visit traders in Barry, Llantwit, Cowbridge and Dinas Powys to encourage shoppers to use their local shops on what will be one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

He said: "Small businesses are a vital part of the Vale. The first Small Business Saturday took place in 2013, since then businesses in Barry and across the Vale have benefitted from recognition of the contribution they make to our towns and villages.

"It is a real shot in the arm for smaller, independent traders to welcome local customers."

There was also support from the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, who said: "I am proud to support Small Business Saturday and will be doing my Christmas shopping on the great Barry High street!

"Small Business Saturday encourages consumers to 'shop local' and this chimes with the work that the Welsh Government is doing through its own 'support your high street campaign' and rate relief scheme."

The leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, is encouraging residents across the Vale to support their local high streets and businesses on Saturday.

He said: " Napoleon once described the UK as a nation of shopkeepers, and that's certainly true in the Vale, where small businesses make a huge contribution to the local economy.

"Our small businesses are the lifeblood of our local communities and where possible we must do all we can to support them.

"As a regular user of the high streets in Cowbridge and the rest of the Vale, I would urge people to shop local and take the time to visit your high street and offer your support."

(SEE FACING PAGE)

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Celebrate entrepreneurial spirit…and use it or lose it!'

Small businesses can only thrive with our local public's support

by local business owner
FAY BLAKELEY

SMALL businesses are vital to local communities – they're often the springboard for independent entrepreneurs and bring diversity to the High Street.

Britain is rightly known throughout the world for its creativity, and small businesses are a breeding ground for creative ideas.

We should all support them.

In today's economy it's a 'use it or lose it' situation. Small businesses can only thrive in the communities they serve if those communities value them and get behind them.

A day like Small Business Saturday is not only a celebration of entrepreneurial spirit, it's a great reminder to us all of the value of the businesses on our doorsteps.

SHOP LOCAL
Support Local Businesses
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
5TH DECEMBER

'Lights put town on map ready for Small Business Saturday'

SATURDAY night's Holton Road Christmas lights show was another example of Barry putting itself on the map.

As the local councillor, I was proud to see King Square packed with families enjoying themselves at the spectacle, watching the 3D animation on the Town Hall and joining in the countdown, and that, after the awful weather all day, the rain stayed away at the right time!

Special thanks go to the Vale Council and staff, especially town centres manager Mari-Wyn Elias Jones for her hard work throughout the year to put the event on, and the staff of TL Computer Systems on Holton Road, who organised the town centre's Christmas market during the day.

With Small Business Saturday coming this weekend, why not take another look at our town centre for your presents, and see what else you can do to make Barry thrive over the Christmas period and into the New Year?

Coun Ian Johnson,
Barry,
Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales.

Come sample and buy delicious Welsh produce - including cheeses, wines, chocolate.
High Street BARRY
Artisan Christmas Market
— Saturday 5 December 10am-7pm —
There'll also be loads of handcrafted gifts & goodies.
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high street

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FOCUS ON DEMENTIA

'You find out who your friends are...People stop inviting you to things'

CARERS and people living with dementia are supporting Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's 'Dementia December', a local initiative to raise awareness of the disease.

A UHB spokesperson reports: The campaign, supported by University Health Board (UHB) staff, aims to improve the experiences of people with dementia and their carers. The focus is on giving workers the knowledge and understanding to enhance the service they provide, during a stressful and confusing time for patients.

Jackie Askey, of Llandaff, cared for her husband George for 12 years following his diagnosis. He passed away in January of this year. Jackie praised the UHB's efforts to help staff support patients in a confident and empathetic way.

She said: "We need to help people with dementia lead as full a life as possible. This is a lifeline to the person with dementia and a lifeline to the carer."

Jackie urges health workers and people in the community to see the person beyond the dementia: "They still have an awful lot to give. The dementia is only a very small part of them and does not make the whole person."

As part of Dementia December, the UHB is working with its Dementia Champions, members of staff committed to helping dementia patients and carers. This includes techniques such as using simple sentences and gaining eye-contact.

Cardiff and Vale UHB has also been working in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to develop Dementia Friendly Communities, an Alzheimer's Society scheme designed to make communities more welcoming and inclusive. The UHB has collaborated with partners such as South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, City of Cardiff Council, the Vale Council and third sector organisations.

Cardiff West and Barry will celebrate working towards their Dementia Friendly Communities status on December 9. The event, at Barry Memorial Hall, acknowledges the ongoing commitment to supporting people with dementia in the community. With the number of people with dementia in Cardiff and the Vale expected to increase from 5,000 to over 8,000 by 2030, this is an important step.

Sharon Hopkins, Director of Public Health, welcomed the news. She said: "Living with dementia can be difficult for patients, as well as their family, friends and carers. It is important that UHB staff, as well as people living and working in our communities, take small but important steps such as speaking clearly and listening."

With Christmas approaching, it is important to remember that some people may be struggling or feeling isolated.

Jackie Askey remembers how George's diagnosis affected their social life: ***"You find out who your friends are... People stop inviting you to things."***

Staff across the UHB will be working together during Dementia December and in the future, to ensure that people like Jackie and George are supported, during the festive period and beyond.

Rugby boys pitch in to help refugees

OPERATION Christmas Child received a boost from members of the academy section at Cardiff Blues, who went to the warehouse in Llandow to help load a container lorry, which is now on its way to Kyrgyzstan, Romania and to refugee camps in Europe.

'Follow Parc model for prison visits' – REPORT URGES

PRISON visit rules risk keeping thousands of families apart, the Barnardo's charity has warned.

Prisons should adopt the HMP Parc Bridgend model, and view visits as a family intervention, rather than a security risk, it maintains in a report this week.

"The prison system in Wales and England is jeopardising thousands of children's rights to see their dads, and family visits should not be used to discipline prisoners," it states.

Over 17,000 children visit prisons each month, Barnardo's survey of the prison visiting system Locked Out reveals. They are part of the estimated 200,000 children with a parent in prison.

"Children have a right under the United Nations to contact with both their parents. For children with a parent in prison, visits are crucial in maintaining these relationships and can help cut down re-offending by 39 per cent.

"However, visiting hours are increasingly being taken away to punish prisoners following changes to the 'Incentives and Earned Privileges' (IEP) scheme, leaving some children with just two hours a month to visit dad."

The report also finds that children are regularly being searched by guards in intrusive interactions that see items such as breast-milk sniffed, hair searched and personal effects such as hair decorations taken away.

Despite no clear evidence existing that parents use children to smuggle drugs, one boy reports 'Feeling like you've done something wrong'.

Barnardo's is calling for changes in the way children of prisoners are treated in Wales and England. This includes effectively banning using visiting hours to punish and reward prisoners in male prisons.

ROMILLY CHRISTMAS FETE

THE PTA at Romilly Primary School is holding a Christmas fete this Saturday (December 5), from 12 noon until 4pm, when stalls include crafts, bric-a-brac, games, cakes and raffles, plus Santa's grotto.

Sam Carpenter, chair of Romilly Primary School PTA, said: "We are building on the success of last year's fete, and hope that the community will get behind this year's event, which we hope will raise funds for equipment that the children need."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01225/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed installation of an ATM through the glazed shop front as a through glass installation to the left of the entrance door. ATM Wincor Procash 2050 fascia and Co-operative food polycarbonate green surround signage. White non illuminated lettering `free cash withdrawals` and `The Co-operative food`
Location:/Lleoliad:	Co Operative Food, 57, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01260/ADV
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed installation of an ATM through the glazed shop front as a through glass illumination to the left of the entrance door. ATM Wincor Procash 2050 fascia and Cooperative food polycarbonate green surround signage. White non illuminated lettering free cash Withdrawals and The Co-operative food
Location:/Lleoliad:	Co-operative Food, 57, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01262/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Replace 2 windows currently aluminium framed double glazed with UPVC sash sliding double glazed
Location:/Lleoliad:	37, Westbourne Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01298/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Repairs and improvements to the existing Old Harbour revetment in the interests of flood prevention and the construction of a new footway / cycleway across the revetment to create a new route linking the Barry Island Causeway to the Old Harbour Car park
Location:/Lleoliad:	Harbour Road Causeway, Barry Island, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Barry (Marine)

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01183/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Change of use to D2 Leisure/Sports Area, to include internal sports pitches, sports facilities, car parking provision, bar area, community cafe and conference rooms, offices and sport shop etc.
Location:/Lleoliad:	Cambria House, Penarth Road, Penarth
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01305/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Development of site known as South Quay (Parkside) for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking servicing and landscape
Location:/Lleoliad:	Site known as South Quay, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 3 December, 2015

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

PACT meetings

STANWELL PACT *on Friday, December 4 at Elfed Avenue Church at 5pm.*

DYFAN PACT *on Sunday, December 6 at Highlight Park Community Centre at 7.30pm.*

BARUC PACT *on Monday, December 7 at St Barucs Church, Phyllis Street, Barry Island at 6.30pm.*

ILLTYD PACT *on Thursday, December 10 at Aberthaw House Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry at 3pm.*

SULLY PACT *on Thursday, December 10 at the Cricket Pavilion, Burnham Avenue Sully at 6.30pm..*

Colitis awareness week highlighted

A WELSH Conservative regional AM, Dr Altaf Hussain, is supporting international Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week (December 1 – 7); highlighting the impact of living with Crohn's Disease or ulcerative colitis, the two main forms of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

These are unpredictable diseases that affect more than 300,000 people in the UK and approximately 15,000 people in Wales.

'More clarity needed on the Metro scheme'

AS the Welsh Government published its proposals for the south Wales Metro project this week, leader of the Welsh Conservatives and South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, commented: "The Metro must be more than just colourful lines on a publicity campaign's map.

"We need further clarity on how the scheme will work in practice and how gaps in service throughout the Vale of Glamorgan will be filled.

"We need more leadership on the introduction of a Metro system if its benefits are ever to be fully realised for residents in the Vale," he said.

Penarth Local History Society

THERE is a change of speaker for the December 10 meeting – the speaker will now be Ron Powell,talking about 'Shropshire to the Falklands', at All Saints' lesser church hall, Penarth at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Festive walks

RAMBLERS CYMRU groups will be leading free walks from December 19 until January 3, from short festive strolls to heartier rambles to kick-start New Year resolutions!

Ramblers Cymru director Angela Charleton said: "Winter is one of the best times to go out for a walk in Wales."

For further information, visit www.ramblers.org.uk/winterwalks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Festive crafts at St Donats

CRAFTS for Christmas returns to St Donat's Castle this Sunday (December 6), bringing a mix of handmade crafts and food stalls to the Vale of Glamorgan, from 10.30am-4.30pm.

There are over 50 stalls to browse, including some first time exhibitors such as Cothi Valley Produce, Baked by Mel, and Welsh Slate Wall Art.

There will also be a bird of prey display in the castle gardens, and for younger visitors, a craft workshop and visit from Santa!

In addition to the craft and food stalls, there will be live music all day to keep everyone entertained. *Admission is £6 per car, or £2 per person on foot.*

Christmas choir concert

A CHRISTMAS concert by the Cantorion Creigiau Choir takes place at the Old School in Sully on Saturday, December 12 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £7.50 and are available from Ian Mathias on 02920 530441, Ken Jones on 02920 530893 or Steve Thomas on 02920 531486.

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Family Notices

RANDELL
Mary Beatrix

Peacefully on November 20 at The Manor House, St. Hilary, Trixie of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved mother of Simon and Sarah.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, December 7, service 12 noon at St. Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend at 1.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

SMITH
Elizabeth Mary

Passed away peacefully on the November 28, Elizabeth of Llantwit Major, aged 94 years. Much loved mother of Derek, Diane, Elaine, Margaret and Ian, and a loving grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at W. A. Brown & Son College, Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Friday, December 18 in St Illtud's Church at 12.30pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

LEWIS
Vivien (Née Wellington)

Died at home after a long illness on December 1. Much loved wife of Clive and mother to Rosey, Chris and Margaret, grandmother and great grandmother, will be sadly missed.

Funeral service at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Thursday, December 10 at 2.15pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation c/o Mr Jack Hawkins, 47 Cae Leon, Barry CF62 9TF.

LEADBITTER
Anthony (Tony)
(of Bwlch Gwyn Farm, Ystradowen)

The funeral service will take place on Friday, December 4 at 1.45pm at Bridgend Crematorium, followed afterwards at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Family flowers only, but donations, if wished, to Ward 2 East, Llandough Hospital in his memory.

GODWARD
Kevin

Suddenly on October 6 at Llandough Hospital, loving brother to Lynda and Denise, much loved uncle to all his nephews, nieces and sister-in-law Ruth.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, December 10, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request.

MAYLIN
Eric John

Peacefully after a long illness on November 24 at Holme Tower, Penarth, Eric John, aged 72 years of Barry. Dearly loved husband of Theresa. Loving father of Mark, Dawn, Andrea, and father-in-law of Rose, Roger and Luke. Cherished grandfather of Luke, Zoe, Bethany, Lydia, Kieran, Dylan and Caitlin.

Eric will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, where flowers may be sent until the funeral on Wednesday, December 9. Service in the chapel at 11.30am, afterwards Interment at Barry Cemetery.

CHAPPLE
Dilys (Née Williams)

Peacefully on November 27 at Llandough Hospital - Dilys, well known of Barry Road and a keen skittler in Barry. Devoted wife to the late Douglas, much loved mum of Gwyn, Jane, Jennifer and Alun. Special mother-in-law of Pamela, Geoff and Linda. Cherished nan to her grandchildren and nanny Dilys to her great grandchildren. Loving sister of Nancy and the late Olwen and Gwyn.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Dilys is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, December 14 at 11am.

Family flowers only - donations if desired may be made at the service to The Stroke Association in memory of Dilys.

WILLIAMS
Geraint Elis *(Giz)*

The family wish to announce the sudden passing of Geraint on November 15 in Australia. Cherished son of Robert & Julie, much loved brother of Nia & Non, loved uncle to Megan, Elis and Robyn, loving fiancé to Christie.

Geraint will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, until his service at their Windsor Road Chapel, on Friday, December 11 at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Single flower only.

BUBBINS
Doris

Peacefully at home, on November 27, surrounded by her family, Doris Evelyn, wife of the late Bob. Mother of Jennifer, David, Gillian, Jonathan, mother in law of Peter, Janet, Cliff and Glynis. Grandmother of Helen, Eleanor, Kate and the late Jeremy.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Monday, December 7. Funeral service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, where family and friends please meet at 12 noon.

Donations to Marie Curie Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Patricia Trudgian

Never a moment from our thoughts.

Love John, Jeremy, Jonathan, Jenny and all the family x.

TO ADVERTISE YOUR **SITUATIONS VACANT, FAMILY NOTICES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES etc. Call Sue on 01446 774484** email: **gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk**

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I Geraint Simmonds do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the variation of a premises license at Wick Road, Ewenny, CF35 5AD, known as Ewenny Garden Centre Limited.

The application is to vary the licence to enable in house and off sale of alcohol from 9.00hrs until 18.00hrs, Monday to Saturday and from 10.30hrs until 16.30hrs on Sundays.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF6 3RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.

Date - 27th November 2015.

Notice under Trustee Act 1925 s 27

Re: John Charles Pagler

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 NOTICE is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of John Charles Pagler, late of 14 Wordsworth Close, Llantwit Major, CF61 1WZ, who died on the 17th February 2015, and whose will was proved in the Probate Registry of Wales on 12th August 2015 by Jane Dorothy Pagler and Janet Louise Telles, the Executors named in it, are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned solicitors on or before the 7th February 2016 after which date the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them, having regard only to the claims of which they then have had notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they then have not had notice.

Dated 1st December 2015.
LG Williams & Prichard
22 St Andrews Crescent
Cardiff, CF10 3DD
Solicitors for the Executors
Ref: SH/SB/PAG398/2
Tel: 029 2022 9716

Recruitment

CATS PROTECTION

Cats Protection is the UK's leading feline welfare Charity and we are currently recruiting for the following 2 vacancies for our shop in Barry Island:

Full Time Shop Manager
35 hours per week including Saturdays & Sundays
Salary £15,942.20 per annum Ref no: OP959

Part Time Assistant Shop Manager
21 hours per week including Saturdays & Sundays
Salary £8,310.85 Ref no: OP960

For further details and to apply please visit **www.cats.org.uk/work-for-us**
Please quote the correct reference number.
Closing date: **9th December 2015** Interviews: **TBC**
No agencies please
Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)

I'm a disabled lady living in Llantwit Major is looking to employ a personal assistant to assist and support with domestic duties around my home and in the community.

I also require support with shopping, meetings and social events so car owner/driver essential.

There are 6 hours of work available, rate of pay is £8.25 per hour.

Telephone: 01443 827930 or e-mail recruitment@dewiscil.org.uk (Quote Ref: VOG009). Successful applicants are required to provide an enhanced disclosure, expense to be met by employer. Charity number 1098229.

Awelon Healthcare
near Llantwit Major requires
Support Workers
• Full & part time available
• Sleep-ins & waking nights required
• Full training provided
Contact Jo or Naina on 01446 793544

BARBER WANTED
Immediate start.
Must be reliable.
Good rates of pay.
Tel: 07935 806372 or 07538 094448

Are you fit to deliver The GEM?
Please ring:
01202 811666
info@thedistributionbusiness.co.uk

New year decision on Vale Housing – LOCAL RESIDENT LOOKS AT THE STATISTICS...

IT is two years since I wrote to The GEM about the LDP's housing projections – and the council have now produced their latest briefing paper on housing provision, using the latest WG statistics.

This paper is available on the Vale website and makes entertaining reading. It is a document which appears to start out with a number in mind and attempts to justify it.

As before, the paper and the LDP projects that the Vale population will rise from 126,000 living in 53,500 households to 132,500 by 2026 (this is a Welsh Government (WG) projection based on 2011 census details). A projected population increase of 6,500 (5 per cent) for the period.

The new WG statistics state that there is a projected requirement for 5,559 additional houses between 2011 and 2026. However, the WG has also introduced a 10-year migration variant which if used takes the required number of houses up to 7,399.

This is still too low for the council so the paper explores all of the reasons why the figure should be higher. This includes saying the period of the census and current projections etc. was at a time of low economic growth and in particular the Vale forms part of the regional housing plan and a special economic growth area.

A consultant (BE group) was used to project that an additional 1,000 to 1,602 dwellings could be required to cover this rise in jobs so the figure of 1,602 was added to the total. Then add another 499 to reflect the regional role and maintain affordable housing. This gives a grand total of 9,500 and when 10 per cent flexibility is added, you arrive at the figure you first thought of 10,450. Magic!!

I read the paper with growing disbelief. The paper points out that although the majority of objections to the required numbers were that they were too high but there was a significant number stating they were too low. These were all house builders!

The report also didn't mention that the council and government have been trying to increase jobs in the area for the last 20 years, with lots of business land available, with limited success. The paper also mentions that over 4,500 affordable houses require to be built over the next five years and the LDP states that the majority of these are required in the Barry area. How does the plan address this fact?

The inspector has started to hear objections to the LDP and in January there are two meetings to discuss housing numbers. It was a bit disappointing to see that a significant number of the participants are people with a financial interest in having a high number of houses built i.e. house builders.

It is clear that the council must use the latest WG projections as a starting point for their projections and demonstrate that the requirement for additional houses is based on sound evidence.

I would just state that the UK projection for increase in house numbers in Wales as a whole over the period is 10.2 per cent. Why then does the council think that the Vale needs an increase of 18 per cent?

Mike Carney, Cowbridge.

'No to offer of meeting'

I REFER to the letter last week from Coun Gwyn John of Llantwit Major, where he questioned my letter from the previous issue of The GEM regarding street lighting in Llantwit Major.

I am certainly not a mischief maker, I am not in the habit of writing letters without first of all gathering some facts, a lot of which come from the council themselves.

I would also like to make it quite plain that the information regarding the street lighting in Llantwit Major actually came from a parent who has a daughter who lives in Llantwit, who confirmed that the street lights are not turned off.

Mr John invites me to a meeting with himself and officers to explain some of the issues that I have written about in previous letters.

I am afraid I will turn that invitation down, as I feel if the council need to explain issues, they can explain it to all the people.

DJ Radford, Barry.

Church tree festival in Barry

THE fourth Christmas tree festival at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, opens at 6.30pm on December 9, after judging of the trees by Vale Mayor, Coun Fred Johnson, Barry Town Mayor Coun Emma Pritchard and Jane Hutt, local Assembly Member.

Barry's Lee Selby, IBF Featherweight Champion will switch on the lights.

A concert will begin at 7pm with Cadoxton School choir, and their drum section.

Geoff Peart will present some traditional folk music, concluding with the talented youngsters from Superstars. Tickets £4 each (includes refreshments) all children admitted free.

St Mary's Church will then be open from 10am to 4.30pm on December 10 and December 11.

School choirs will entertain over the two days, including Oakfield Primary, Jenner Park Primary, St Helen's Primary, Gladstone Infants, Barry Island Primary and St Baruc Welsh Primary.

On December 12 Father Christmas will be dropping in at 9am for breakfast with the girls and boys. Tickets for this will be £5 with a gift for every child. Parents' breakfast £2.50. The church will then be open from 10.30am to 1.30pm for the viewing of trees.

At 2pm there will be an afternoon of carols and folk music, plus St Athan Junior Brass Band, People's First Charity, The Real Lives Choir, and St Helen's Primary School Choir. Winners of the Christmas tree festival will be announced and certificates will be presented to the winners of the three categories by the Vale Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor Coun Charlotte Williams and Jane Hutt AM. Tickets for this event are £3 (includes refreshments) children admitted free.

A donation from the festival will be made to the Llanmau charity. Contact Susan on 07866 078665 or 01446 747928 for more details.

WALES MANAGER OPENS JENNER PARK'S NEW 'STATE OF THE ART' 3G SURFACE

A NEW chapter was marked in the proud history of Jenner Park stadium in Barry last Thursday when Wales manager Chris Coleman officially opened the new 3G artificial playing surface.

He marked the occasion by kicking the first ball in a football festival featuring 160 youngsters from primary schools across the Vale.

Coleman was also presented with a gift by pupils at nearby Jenner Park Primary school to congratulate him on his success as the national boss.

The new pitch, installed following a six-figure investment by the Vale Council, is part of an ambitious plan to open the stadium up to the community and secure its future as the premier sporting venue in the Vale.

Speaking at the opening Chris Coleman commended the renovation, saying: "Football, like any sport, starts in the community and we need facilities like this one if we are going to nurture the next generation of sporting stars.

"Barry has a proud footballing history. The new pitch will be great for Barry Town United and hopefully will help propel them back into the Welsh Premier League, but the real benefit will be to the children playing here and the community as a whole.

"Credit must go to the Vale Council for having the vision to make this happen and for making a major investment which will pay dividends for many years to come."

Jenner Park faced an uncertain future earlier this year as its high running costs were unsustainable in light of the unprecedented financial challenges being faced by the Vale Council.

However, the installation of the new pitch will not only see costs cut but also use of the stadium made available to the whole community.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible services and leisure, said: "The easy decision would have been to simply close the doors to Jenner Park for good. Thankfully for all of those that value sport, the Vale of Glamorgan Council had the vision to develop a better facility and new way of managing it that will ensure this historic ground is used for generations to come.

"It is the council's aim to get more people living more active lives and the renovation of Jenner Park will help us take a huge step forward towards this goal.

"The new Jenner Park will be somewhere where children and young people can develop their skills on a perfect playing surface and where adults at all levels can play the game they love in a first class facility."

Gavin Chesterfield, manager of Barry Town United FC, said: "Jenner Park is renowned throughout Welsh football and beyond. There have been many great nights throughout the stadium's proud 102 year history. However, the installation of the new surface has given the stadium a new lease of life and it is now a hive of sporting activity.

"As a club, the new pitch has opened up many possibilities in terms of how we engage the local community and we will be announcing many exciting new ventures in the coming weeks and months. To complement the launch of the new pitch the club has given out 300 free tickets to children and their families for our upcoming Welsh Cup third round tie versus Denbigh Town on December 5."

Work on the new playing surface was completed in October and the pitch has since received FIFA's highest level of accreditation, FIFA Pro. The artificial surface has already seen action at levels ranging from mini-football to Barry Town United FC's home games in the Welsh Football League Division 1.

As part of the same programme of work being undertaken by the council, construction is soon to begin on four smaller five-a-side pitches at the Colcot Sports Centre in Barry. Along with the upgraded Jenner Park these pitches will provide a suite of surfaces within the Vale's largest town that can be played on by all sections of the community 365 days a year.

Michelin CrossClimate launched – IS THIS A GAME CHANGER?

IN the UK, we experience every sort of winter driving condition. Heavy snow in 2012, the cold and wet winter of 2014, the mild and warm winter of 2015 - the UK really is an unpredictable climate.

This unpredictability makes tyre choices for the British winters difficult. Without question, winter tyres are the right tyre for freezing and snowy conditions, but with the last few winters characterised by warm wet conditions, a summer tyre would be the smarter choice overall.

A Barry Tyre Centre spokesman said: "This has led us to start recommending 'all season' tyres as the correct tyre to fit in the winter.

"All season tyres offer approximately 85 per cent of a summer tyre's performance in the dry and wet, and 85 per cent of a winter tyre's performance in the snow which gives them a slightly better operation window for the UK than a full winter.

"While this balance of qualities is the best compromise currently available, the ideal tyre for the UK tyre market is a tyre which offers 99 per cent of a summer tyre's performance in the dry and wet, yet still offers the ability to perform in snow and ice for those few days a year we see adverse conditions.

"The good news is Michelin claim to have done exactly that with the new Michelin CrossClimate.

"The Michelin CrossClimate is the world's first summer tyre which can be used in winter conditions. TUV-tested, the new CrossClimate really does seem to be the magic bullet for the UK climate, with 99 per cent of a summer tyre's performance in the dry and wet, and 100 per cent of a winter tyre's performance in snow traction and braking.

"Is this too good to be true? Fortunately we've had some experience driving on this tyre, and we're happy to report it seems to do exactly as Michelin/TUV claim."

SEE THE BARRY TYRE CENTRE ADVERT ON PAGE 43.

New captain Liz Fine prepares to 'drive in'.

Liz starts her year in office

ON November 24, the new ladies' captain at Brynhill Golf Club, Mrs Liz Fine, was blessed with a break in the bad weather for her 'drive-in'.

Supported by the ladies' section, Liz duly got her year in office under way with a great second drive down the first fairway, her first being an exploding ball!

Previously, all the ladies paid money to guess where Liz's ball might land. The winner of this competition was Mrs Helena Coombes.

The day's golf competition was won by Lynda Lloyd with 17 points. Runner-up was Linda Hewlett with 14 points. Liz's chosen charity for this year is Wales Air Ambulance.

CH/LT

CLUB SIGN OFF 2015 IN STYLE!

The students shone at the recent WOMAA Championships.

FOLLOWING on from their recent success at the GTI British Open, the Cadoxton School of Tae Kwon Do competed in their last tournament of 2015.

The World Organization of Martial Arts Athletes British Open Championships (WOMAA) were hosted by Master Mal Johns & Leanne Emmerson.

The Cadoxton squad took advantage of the categories available on the day, points fighting, continuous fighting, kumite, patterns and weapons for all ages and levels.

The Cadoxton squad brought home with them a total of 54 medals - 16 gold, 25 silver, 13 bronze and 16 WOMAA British Champions.

The club already has a full 2016 calendar; after Christmas the squad will again be full training for local events and internationals in Birmingham, Liverpool, Germany and the USA.

Pictured above with their instructors and coaches are Matthew Bennett, Peter O'Callaghan, Lucy Newman, Keita Enfield, Ron Thomas; Jake Quigley, Cameron Evans, Ethan Andrus, Joel wells, Cian Allen, Lucia Cunningham; Charlie Rogers, Maddison Allen, Leland Butler & Cody Jacobsen.

For further information call (01446) 406372. **RT**

Pencoed RFC hold out for well-deserved victory...

THE Dulais Valley can be the most foreboding of venues, but on this occasion the Pencoed side rose to the challenge against the odds to record a fine 16-10 victory against a Seven Sisters side occupying fourth place in Division 1 West Central.

Pencoed won a couple of early turnovers through the efforts of back row forward Rhys Watkins and scrum half Kyle Barrett, with second row Dano Howells particularly prominent with a couple of determined charges.

The home game plan soon became quite clear, their pack aiming to bludgeon their way through the Pencoed ranks, often doubling and tripling up numbers in their efforts to force their way through.

This was the pattern for the opening 20 minutes before another close up assault saw home hooker Jordan Roderick cross close to the posts, wing threequarter Andrew Thomas adding the extras.

Despite the driving play of the home pack the Pencoed front row of skipper Kieron Moore, hooker Tom Drew, and loose head Christian Powell were getting the better of the close quarter exchanges at the scrummage and this ascendancy gave them the platform for outside half Adam Williams to open his side's account with a well judged 30 metre penalty goal in the blustery conditions.

Pencoed left wing David Young then did well to clear a dangerous situation in his own 22 to clear to touch and despite a few problems at the lineout Pencoed returned to the attack.

Williams probed with a short kick into the home 22, where chasing centre Gareth Dyer caught home full back Daniel Norton in possession and from the resultant penalty Williams made matters 7-6.

Pencoed were now starting to put some phases together to enjoy their best moments of the half and keep the home side under pressure.

A series of scrums in the home 22 saw Pencoed cement their authority at the set scrummage and only desperate home defence kept their line intact.

Pencoed, having lost hard working second row Ricky Somers relatively early in the match, were forced into positional changes, Aaron Halse moving to the boilerhouse with Rhys Vowles taking his place in the back row, the centre doing well in his emergency role.

Pencoed's pack problems were compounded at the interval with the loss of Halse through injury, Powell moving into the second row with young Brandon Nelson on at prop forward.

Pencoed's revamped pack then destroyed a home scrummage and as a result Williams kicked the penalty goal to go into the lead at 7-9.

The home side attacked from the restart and Rhys Clarke playing at right wing did well to chase back and check the home raid before Pencoed regrouped to clear to touch.

Pencoed were now starting to play with confidence into the elements and following another dominant scrummage Pencoed increased their lead.

No 8 Gareth Prentice released Barrett who broke cleanly before timing his pass to supporting full back Rhys Thomas who raced in at the posts from 22 metres, Williams adding the conversion for a 7-16 lead.

The home side kept themselves in the match with a penalty goal from Thomas and at 10-16 it was still anyone's match in the fading valley light.

The ardent Pencoed support were to endure a tense final couple of minutes but despite several late scares their team held out for a well deserved victory full of character.

On Saturday a supporters coach will travel to Skewen for a 2.30pm kick-off.

TR

We welcome your sports news - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday November 24, the semi-finals and final of the mixed doubles were played at the Edmondes Arms.

After two very tight semi-final matches the final lineup was an all-Farmers Arms affair. In the final Maureen Fleming and Nigel Thomas (substitute Rob Jones) defeated Pam Adams and Tony Fox (substitute Owen Carter) 3-1.

Also that evening the postponed league match between Llanharry and the Edmondes B was played. It was a close game with Llanharry coming out winners 5-4.

Present league standings, after seven weeks, are now: Edmondes B (39 points), Farmers Arms and Highwayman Inn (32), Edmondes C and Llanharry (31), Six Bells Inn (28), Edmondes A (27), Farmers B (H&H) (21) and Old Post Ladies (11).

Next week, Tuesday December 8, the last full programme of league matches (league week nine) before the Christmas and New Year break will be played.

The Old Post Ladies hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Edmondes A hosts the Farmers B (H&H), the Edmondes C hosts Llanharry and the Farmers Arms hosts the Edmondes B. The Six Bells Inn do not have a game.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Seaview Lads results

THE first leg of the annual Christmas competition was fished on Sunday, November 29 in very high winds and torrential downpours - but this did nothing to deter a large turn-out of anglers.

An extra incentive was the chance to win the Wyndham Page Trophy commemorating one of our founding members.

Many anglers had only just returned from the annual trip to the Canaries where they had enjoyed halcyon summer like weather and excellent fishing.

Many landed rays approaching the 100lb mark along with the numerous exotic species including trumpet fish and barracuda. Their welcome home could not have been more different.

Hurricane force gusts of over 60 knots forced many fish to stay on their sea bed but enough did come out to ensure that many anglers caught something. Weights were not high overall; those anglers that weighed in managed a solitary fish or two, but Aida Harris weighed in almost 4kg on what was a challenging day to stand up, let alone fish!

Congratulations to all that braved the conditions and we eagerly await round two!

Results: 1st A Harris 3.82 kg, 2nd K Salah 2.94, 3rd M Langford 2.14, 4th C Mcinerery 1.61, 5th P Crook 1.52, 6th S Doble 1.32.

JC

Busy week for Barry chess club

ANOTHER busy week for the Barry Chess Club, with all four of its teams in the East Glamorgan League in action, together with the West Wales Chess Congress held at Llansamlet.

In the league there was the unusual event of both of the lower teams, Quarks and Gambits, winning their matches in divisions 3 and 4 respectively. Both teams recorded their second victories of the season with 3-2 away victories.

The Quarks won their match picking up the points on the three bottom boards. It could have been even better as there were winning opportunities on board 2.

This moves the Quarks up to eighth in the table. They remain in the relegation spot on tie break from Penarth on the basis that we lost 3.5 to 1.5 in our opening match of the season at home to Penarth. A big win in the return fixture in January could prove to be our most vital fixture/result in the season.

The Gambits found themselves outgraded on all boards as usual, but good wins from team captain Stephen Bonutto together with Jason Grice and Ray Denley, gave us an unexpected victory against one of the early season frontrunners.

The Gambits also sit in eighth position in the league but are more comfortable as there is no relegation from division 4.

In division 1 it was not so successful for our teams. The Bosons however earned a valuable point against the Cardiff Castles with a win for Matthew Parry over Walter Braun and draws for Matthew Davies, Steve Cunliffe and Dave Parsons.

The Camelots did not fare so well at North Cardiff, losing by 3.5 to 1.5 against the Woodpushers. However in perhaps the result of the season so far Sam Jukes beat Peter Heaven; Peter has a ranking of 2144 while Sam's ranking is 1713.

The Bosons sit comfortably in third place. It seems unlikely that they will be able to maintain a strong challenge for the title but we can live in hope.

The Camelots are in ninth place above the already seemingly marooned St John's College Positrons. The Camelots remain three points from safety but with a poor tie break score. Relegation, while not a certainty, is looming!

In the West Wales Congress there were 30 entries including past and present members Lee Davis, Joe Turner and Nigel Ralphs in the Open Section, while in the Major Section the club was represented by Stephen Bonutto.

Lee finished in ninth place with four draws and a win from his five games. Joe was less successful with two wins and a draw from his five games to finish 19th.

Nigel took a bye in round 1 - this can sometimes give an easier route in the next rounds but that is not always the case. This time Nigel drew matches in the next three rounds, only losing to Joe Fathallah of the Cardiff club in round 5. Nigel finished in 21st place. All three of these players were seeded to finish higher than then actually did.

In the Major section, Stephen, who travelled with Nigel, also took a bye. Stephen was seeded to finish 12th out of the 14 competitors in this section.

He beat Kevin O'Rourke from the Caerphilly Club in round three, losing his other three matches to finish with 1.5 points. He actually finished in 12th place so was the only Barry-linked player to achieve their correct seeded position.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

We welcome your sports news, reports - and other items of interest - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

News from Dinas Powys lady golfers

There were plenty of awards at Dinas Powis Golf Club ladies section annual presentation

ON November 17, Dinas Powis Golf Club ladies section held their annual presentation of trophies for the current year.

We offer our congratulations to all the winners for a successful season (pictured above).

On November 3, a Turkey Trot 2 Stableford was held - 1st Annie Blackburn 22pts, 2nd Sue Bridle 16pts, 3rd Sally Livsey Davies 15pts on countback from Lisa Ryley and Vicki Ellison.

On November 10, Turkey Trot 3 Medal - 1st Annie Blackburn 46 - 10.5 = 35.5nett, 2nd Sue Bridle 45 - 8.5 = 36.5, 3rd Ann Mahenthiralingam 46 - 6.5 = 39.5.

On November 17, Turkey Trot 4 Stableford - 1st Lisa Ryley 19pts, 2nd Annie Blackburn 15pts, 3rd Maxine Hird 12pts.

RY

Tournament success for local youngsters

RECENTLY, Barry Kyokushin Karate club hosted and competed in the second annual Wales Kyokushin Open Tournament.

Up first were the kata (pattern) competitors. Angel Benavant was first to place, gaining first place and her first Welsh Championship title in the six to eight year old division, against 10 other competitors who had a lot more experience.

Next to compete was Dominika Mielkilzuk who was unfortunately just pipped for first place, but came home with a fantastic second place.

In the 10 to 13 year old kata, the club secured all three places. After an incredibly tough two rounds against much higher-graded competitors, Justine Bolanos achieved a very well deserved third place.

Leanne Lirio achieved second place after impressing the judges, and for the second year running Ben Bolanos achieved his second first place and retained his Welsh Champion title.

Next up was Luke Murphy, who at the start of this month achieved his second kyu (brown belt).

Luke performed two excellent katas and was incredibly unfortunate to be just pipped for first place, but came home with a fantastic and well deserved second place.

Claire Norman was next in the Kyu grade adult kata and performed two fantastic katas. Having only trained for a little over a year, Claire got third place in her category after some very tough and experience kata competitors.

Finally, Rhian Evans, who achieved her second kyu along with Luke earlier this year, was up in the Black Belt category against several much higher graded, very well seasoned international competitors.

After a very tough second round Rhian achieved first place and the Welsh Champion title for the second year running.

Rhian has won four national titles in kata in the three years she has been training.

To next compete were the kids WUKO competitors. Sebastian Barzewski was first to place after several tough fights. Sebastian won his semi-final fight and sailed through to the final where he faced a great competitor. Sebastian came away with a fantastic second place trophy.

Next to compete was Justine Bolanos in an incredibly tough WUKO category. Justine got through to the finals – a round robin against two other fantastic competitors, and came away with an incredible second place after three very difficult fights.

Ben Bolanos was up next against WUKO competitors that were much taller and bigger than him, but stood his own, and achieved a fantastic third place to add to his first place in kata.

Paul Lambert was next to fight in male clicker against several younger and higher graded competitors.

After a fantastic first three rounds where Paul came out victorious, he entered the final against an international competitor from Denmark.

After an incredibly close fight, Paul achieved an absolutely incredible second place, losing his final fight by just one point.

Tyrone Conway was then to fight in the Novice Knockdown men's lightweight.

After some very gruelling rounds and extensions, Tyrone achieved an absolutely fantastic third place in his first knockdown tournament.

The club committee decided to donate all the profits from this event to Sebastian Sargent, a local boy with cerebral palsy and autism.

Funds are being raised to buy him an all-terrain wheelchair, and the tournament raised just over £400, with local company Spartan Martial Arts and sports suppliers LTD helping to round the figure up to £500.

Anyone wanting to donate can go to https://www.gofundme.com/7f487mdk.

PS

Indoor bowlers left 'disappointed' with away victory!

SULLY Bowls Championship team travelled to Bridgend on Saturday, November 21 to play Ogwr at the Indoor Bowling Green in the Leisure centre.

Sully were expecting a win as Ogwr are in a transitional period having lost a number of their star players, therefore Sully were looking for wins on most rinks.

Sully were in for a shock before the game began as the arena was cold as the heating system was not working; in fact the system was blowing out cold air.

The game began with Sully players wearing any tops or coats they could bowl in but this didn't stop them taking a eight shot lead after five ends, with four rinks ahead.

From ends six to 10 Sully were maintaining their form and had gone further by the end of the 10th, leading by 14 shots, 69-55.

Ken McLeod's rink was struggling against the Ogwr rink skipped by Jim Hoskins and were adrift by eight shots, while the rinks of Fred Phillips, Brian Griffiths and Chris Ackland were level with their opponents.

It was the rink of Graham Cogbill, Gary Eastment and Mike Doyle, skipped by the reliable Brian Foscolo and Martin Clarke-Squires' rink, who were ensuring the Sully lead.

As the game progressed it was still Foscolo's and Clarke-Squires' rinks enabling Sully to stay ahead, each leading by 22 shots and 13 shots respectively, while Sully's other four rinks were fighting hard to gain the initiative with the overall score at the 15th end 90-78 in Sully's favour.

Sully were now out of their comfort zone, only leading by a dozen shots with four of the six rinks behind going into the final six ends. It was now going to be a battle in the minds of the Sully players – from being super confident of a good win, the pressure was now on to hold onto a lead that Ogwr were eating into.

The 16th end saw Sully take eight shots across the rinks to move 20 shots ahead and ease the pressure but the rinks of Chris Ackland, Brian Griffiths and Ken McLeod lost more ground on their opponents over the closing ends, with Fred Phillips' rink having a tremendous tussle with Ogwr skip Brian Tucker over the last few ends, with the Sully rink finally succumbing by three shots.

The rinks of Ackland, Griffiths and McLeod also failed to get to grips with their opponents, losing their games by seven, six and six shots respectively.

Fortunately Foscolo's rink won decisively by 27 shots, 32-5, while Clarke-Squires' rink also had a resounding win by 16 shots, 29-13.

As a result of these two rinks Sully gained an overall win, 128-107. Although they gained 14 points out of 22 on offer, there was a slight disappointment that more rinks had failed to gain more points, but the win places Sully just eight points behind leaders Taff Ely and two points behind second-placed Newport - and both clubs have to come to Sully in the new year.

FP

Sports see games postponed

SULLY Sports RFC suffered a double cancellation last week with both the first and second teams having their games called off.

The firsts return to action on Saturday, December 5, away to Tongwynlais, kick off 2.30pm – meet at Sully Clubhouse 12.30pm, while the seconds are away to St Peters.

Last Friday, November 27, a reunion of older players/members was held at the clubhouse and it turned out to be a great success, with 20 'old-timers' enjoying a buffet, catching up on each other's current circumstances, lots of memories shared and stories of the past related.

Those present agreed that this social should become a regular occurrence, with efforts to trace and invite as many of past players/members as can be found to the next event, which will be held on Friday, January 29, and thereafter every two months on the last Friday of the month.

The venue for the reunion will rotate between Sully, Barry and Dinas Powys – watch this space.

Last Saturday saw a very successful 'hypnotist night' held at the club - many thanks to chairman Richard Gully for all his efforts in putting on the event.

A comedy night is in the pipeline for the New Year, and details will be published soon.

MS

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Barry seconds in pulsating draw

BARRY RFC seconds travelled to the capital to face Clwb Rygbi as they hope to build on the momentum from last weekend's win.

Coaches Rhidian Scott and Martin Tanner were yet again rocked with the late withdrawal of Curtis Miller hours before kick off, and were forced to reshuffle the pack.

There were recalls for Nick Rolfe, James Sullivan and Luke Bounds, while Joel Williams continued at fly-half after impressing last weekend from the bench.

In atrocious conditions at Llandaff Fields, both sides tried to play a brand of attractive running rugby from the off but soon regained common sense as the forwards took over.

It was the home side who adapted to the conditions quicker, taking advantage of some loose Barry tackling in the first quarter to score a try underneath the posts.

Barry were jolted into action and began to lay siege to the Clwb line. Buoyed by the dominant front row of Gareth Hall, Lee Turnbull and Ben Such, who were winning scrums with ease, Barry made inroads deep into the home 22 and were finally rewarded as following a series of forward drives, Rolfe powered over for his first try of the season. Matt Russell was successful with the conversion from an impossible angle out wide.

The momentum had swung and Barry continued to dominate in the set piece and were also winning the battle in the contact area.

Powerful surges from Remy Frenay, Lloyd Dutton and Ben Such saw another attack on the home line, and despite some desperate Clwb tackling, captain Kyle Case was the next to score. Russell added the extras to give Barry a 14-7 lead at half-time.

Barry seemed to be in control for most of the second half but with playing conditions deteriorating neither side could venture much into an attacking position. It was the home side who had more possession, and often found space out wide, but good cover tackling from Rhidian Mepham, Dutton and Frenay prevented any score.

It took the official to intervene as he controversially binned Case after an offence in the ruck, and with a mismatch in numbers the home side equalised with a try out wide.

With only 14 men Barry continued to probe and played a sensible game of tight rugby, putting the Clwb eight under enormous pressure.

Slowly gaining a foothold in an attacking position, the Barry forwards drove patiently for the line, and after a number of unsuccessful attempts, there was no stopping Dutton as he crashed over from two yards. Russell was again on target with his conversion to give Barry a seven point lead with just minutes to go.

Unfortunately just like last weekend, the green-and-whites failed to close out the game, and this time there was to be no reprieve as the home side took full advantage to score a try through some tired tackling as the game ended on a pulsating 21-21 draw.

While both management and players will agree there was room for improvement, the performance and effort in the last two weekends have been superb and after a slow start to the season Barry would hope to kick on for the rest of the campaign.

Barry second XV host Dinas Powys this weekend while the third XV are home to St Albans.

KC

The Barry and District ladies skittles league

LATEST results for November 16:

First division: Barry Stars (M Richards 34) 327, SV Gals (J Ladner, R Sewell, L Kingsman, J Richards) 310; Family Affair (D Brown 29) 233, Special Angels (P Grisdale 25) 237; Castle Bandits (P Thomas 27) 220, Coppers (S Ford 29) 255; Cigar Ladies (L Webb 30) 291, Bakers Dozen (E Baker 36) 329; Breakaways (C Parfitt 32) 292, Bobby's Girls (J Macdonald 28) 258; Colcot Ladies (K Tayloer 310) 272, Allsorts (C Griffiths 30) 252.

Second division: Clickies (M Harney 34) 312, Cad Con Fillies (T Clements 29) 292; Red Admiral (G Williams 26) 258, Castaways (S Billings 24) 207; After Eights (P Mepham 36) 308, Vixens (D Marks 31) 296; Rhoose Starlights (D Stradling 26) 263, Little Devils (L Bowsher , T Jones 27) 279; S V Lights (M Seixas 28) 267, Rhoose Ravers (J Bishop 27) 233; Witchill Widows (S Murray 30) 310, Merry Makers (C Edwards 34) 305.

Third division: Dolly Mixtures (P Grigham, E Bryan 24) 312, Hill Billies (G Moorcraft 22) 207; Roller Coasters (P Thomas 28) 219, Persuaders (J Neil, L Organ, G Hughes 21) 199; Friends and Neighbours (C Ferris, E Brown 26) 243, Westenders (J Andrews, L Lambeth 25) 238; Fallen Angels (J Tudor 30) 282, La Belles (R Closs, R Day 26) 264; Airways Angels (E Jones 27) 251, S V Ladies (C Griffriths 25) 214.

Fourth division: Hell Raisers (L Waters 25) 234, Guardian Angels (S Aston, S Clarke, J Overton 23) 206; Witches (M Allen, P Cookson 27) 234, Challengers (L Morgan 23) 216; Living On a Spare (E McLaggon 33) 295, Rebels (L Spurr 32) 319; Socialites (F Nolan, K Glover 29) 260, Uptown Girls (R Dutton, L Hobbs 26) 256; Liberals (S Boyd 22) 149, Off The Rails (I Rosser 24) 187; Nite Outers (M Hudson 25) 212, Odd Bopds (T Perry 23) 175.

Kanku Do impress at tournament

There was plenty of success for Kanku Do!

ON Saturday, November 21, Kanku Do took a squad of 11 to the second Welsh Kyokushin Karate tournament held at the Memo Barry.

First up were Charlotte Hewitson and Kasey Lewis with their well polished performances of kata. This earned Charlotte first place and her first ever trophy! Kasey was very unlucky not to place.

The 14-16 year kumite category saw Morgan Long claim first with a very accomplished and technical win against solid fighters.

The 12-14 year kumite category was always going to be a huge battle with five Kanku Do fighters in the same category!

After some brave displays the club took first, second and third places (Jack Long, Jack Garrett and Ellis Walker respectively).

The club very much enjoyed the day and are looking forward to next year already.

For information about joining please call to St David's Church Hall on a Tuesday from 7pm-8pm.

Squad: Morgan Long, Jack Long, Jack Garrett, Ashleigh Millard, Kyle Millard, Luca Cullinane, Ellis Walker, Charlotte Hewitson, Kasey Lewis and Tyler Donnelly.

NL

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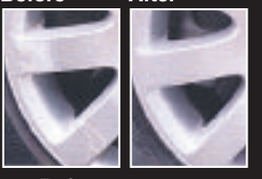

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Great success for Welsh Karate in English event

Josh Dwyer, Jack George and Harrison Williams, the Karate Wales under-15 team.

Leah Copeland was senior ladies double champion!

Emma Squire won the 15-17 girls open Kata.

A NUMBER of Vale Karate members were among the Karate Wales squad which competed at the UWK England Open recently.

The Kata events were first and Wales' first gold medal came from Vale Karate's talented 15-year-old Emma Squire, who won the girls 15-17 Kata, a great result as she was probably the youngest competitor in the category.

Wales' youngest squad member, Ellie-Jayne Farrugia (nine), took a bronze in the under-10 Kata while Chiara Baker (11) took a bronze in the 10-12 before stepping up to the 12-14 category, where she took another bronze!

Leah Copeland (21) took a silver medal in the ladies Shotokan event, where she was narrowly beaten by the Romanian multiple WUKF World champion Eva Kerekes, before putting in the Kata performances of her life to take the gold medal in the ladies open.

Jack George, although only 12, won the last Welsh Karate League under-14 event, beating boys who are now 14. He demonstrated his improvement, and a hint of what may be to come, with brilliant displays, winning both the 10-12 145cm-plus event, beating fellow Welsh squad member Morgan Harvey in the final, and the 12-14 Shobu Ippon event, where he headed a Wales 1-2-3-3 with Tushi Karunanithy in silver and Josh Davies and Josh Dwyer (Vale) in bronze medal positions.

Josh Dwyer was also among the medals in the 13-14 165cm-plus category, where he won another bronze medal.

Alysha Lee, another fast-improving fighter, was a whisker away from reaching the final in the 10-12 145cm-plus event, earning a well-deserved bronze medal.

Leah Copeland had a bye in the first Kumite round, but was in the toughest part of the draw as her first opponent was none other than WUKF's top female fighter, Romania's Magdalena Tier, who won the under-60kg and open events at the UWK and WUKF World Championships in Slovenia last month, beating Leah in the second round on that occasion.

In the shock result of the tournament, Leah fearlessly threw herself into the challenge and brought her supporters to their feet with her greatest win yet!

Anything less than the gold medal would still have been somewhat anticlimactic, but she didn't disappoint, beating two of England's best females on the way to taking her second gold of the day.

Rhydian Pullin came close to adding to Wales' gold medal tally, narrowly falling at the final hurdle, to secure silver.

The 10-14 male rotation team event took place at 8pm, the last event of a gruelling day.

Harrison Williams, Josh Dwyer and Jack George represented the Principality in style and had secured a 7-2 win at time up, only to be disqualified due to a rule infringement.

A successful end to a great event which highlighted again the immense strength of Vale Karate and the Karate Wales squad.

On and Off The Turf
WITH BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE rider Byron Moorcroft was in good form at the Black Forest Lodge Club Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Black Forest Lodge on Sunday where he rode a double.

Byron took the restricted race on David Brace's *Doctor Braveheart*, which had finished second in a hunter chase in Ireland last April, and later in the afternoon landed the restricted on the Jonathan Tudor trained Northgeorge.

The former won by a head from *Templestate Floresco* and the latter scored by 12 lengths from *Wotzisname*. The runner-up in each case was ridden by national champion point-to-point rider Will Biddick.

WELSH WIZARD'S WINNING RUN CONTINUES

'Welsh wizard' National Hunt trainer Evan Williams of Llancarfan, who has been in tremendous form of late, landed a 40-1 double at Doncaster last Friday with *Go Long* and *Wild Bill* and less than 24 hours later he was back in the winner's enclosure when his *Tea In Transvaal* took the opening TRA Mares' Novices' Hurdle at Newbury.

Five-year-old *Go Long*, a 6-1 chance, who was racing for the first time in 254 days, won the Massarellas' Mister Softee Novices' Hurdle by three and a half lengths from the odds-on favourite *Charbel* and six-year-old *Wild Bill*, the 4-1 co-favourite, was a two and a half lengths winner of the Kelly's Of Cornwall Novices' Limited Handicap Chase.

Four-year-old *Tea In Transvaal*, the 11-8 favourite, came home six lengths ahead of *Colla Pier* and like *Go Long* and *Wild Bill* was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, who deserves at least some of the credit for the 'Welsh wizard's' success.

ON TOUR'S LONG TRIP PAYS OFF

Evan Williams' *On Tour's* long trip from Llancarfan to Carlisle on Sunday paid off when the promising seven-year-old landed the Apollobet Home Cashback Special Novices' Chase by three parts of a length from *Sirabad*.

On Tour was ridden by Paul Moloney who also was successful on *Divine Port* and *Virnon*.

NATIONAL BOOK

My book 'The Welsh Grand National – from Deerstalker to Emperor's Choice' (£14.99, paperback) is available now.

First staged at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse in 1895, the Welsh Grand National has also taken place at Newport before finding its current home, Chepstow. This book is the definitive history of the premier racing event in the Principality.

The story encompasses more than 100 years of history and includes all of the great jockeys, trainers and horses who have triumphed or failed.

This includes the remarkable case of Golden Miller's 1936 attempt to win the race; despite winning an incredible five Cheltenham Gold Cups and the Aintree Grand National, the mighty Miller could only finish third in the Welsh event.

Richly illustrated throughout, this volume is an essential purchase for anyone with an interest in racing or the sporting heritage of Wales.

Barrivale Bridge Club results

RESULTS from Barrivale Bridge Club for November 24 – which was the concluding week of the Barrivale Team Championship:

First: Irene Thomas, Jenny Vaughan, Mike Close and Mike Best. 65 IMPS: second, Mark Roderick, Noelle Bond, Peter Millar and Mick Green 36 IMPS; third, Jane Brook, Denis Mottram, Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas 14 IMPS.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join, call 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592. Call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

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Weather no obstacle as Barry RFC whitewash Abercynon

It was a wet and wild day at Barry RFC as HOWARD POOLE's photographs attest!

IN some of the worst weather conditions seen for a long time, Barry entertained Abercynon in a league fixture last Saturday.

Despite the strong winds and driving rain which prevailed for most the afternoon, the match itself proved to be entertaining with both sides committed to an open game whenever possible.

Barry faced the elements in the first half and set their stall out early by bringing the backline into play regularly to threaten the away defence and gain territory.

This tactic met with early success as a break by Scott from the home 22 found White who made good ground before being tackled.

With the ball being quickly recycled Hadfield found the space to cross for the opening score which went unconverted, not surprising in the conditions.

Abercynon also had their moments and spent some minutes in home territory but a combination of greasy ball and a solid defence prevented them from opening their account.

Hadfield was forced to leave the field to injury, being replaced by O'Sullivan. The half-time whistle went with no more scores, but Barry were good value for their lead and were happy to turn round with the elements in their favour for the second half.

Vidal replaced Ring at the start as Barry camped in the visitors' 22 and despite the pressure Abercynon made it difficult for them to create any chances. In fact, in the opening 10 minutes Barry had little possession of any quality.

The deadlock was broken when Baros sent a penalty from some 50 metres straight between the posts to increase the lead to 8-0, meaning the visitors would need to score twice.

Barry used the conditions to their advantage to continually pin the opposition back.

Ryan and Perry came on to replace Jones and Scott closely followed by G. Jones for Poole.

With conditions worsening by the minute the game became scrappy but dominated by Barry and it seemed only a matter of time before they would score.

The forwards were setting a platform for the backs and it was Perry who finally found the space to cross for a try which was duly converted by Baros.

Minutes later the same player crashed through the defence for his second try, Baros again adding the extras.

Seeking the bonus point for the fourth try, Barry threw everything into attack and came close on several occasions but couldn't achieve it, with the the final score 22-0 to Barry.

Next Saturday sees Barry entertain Llantrisant at 2.30pm.

Following that match the club Christmas draw will take place - would those still holding tickets please return them to the club as soon as possible, they can be left with Carol at the bar.

AJ

A LAST-MINUTE WINNER DEFEATS DINAS POWYS FC

IN horrendous conditions, with a gale force wind and driving rain throughout the game, both Tata Steel and Dinas Powys FC tried to play some good football on a very sticky pitch.

Dinas started the better winning a corner after just one minute, Nicky Bruce finding Luke Swaffield but he skied his effort over the bar. An excellent through ball from Mamadu Banguraso played Nathan Donnelly in on goal but he was adjudged offside.

The hosts won their first corner on 11 minutes which Dinas central defender James Marr headed away powerfully. Banguraso then committed a foul out by the right touch line, Thomas Edwards drove the ball in low which reached Justin Williams whose volley was wide of James Curtin's right post.

The game was flowing from end to end and Dinas were certainly playing much better than the previous Saturday.

A good through ball played Scott Muir in but the Tata keeper Matthew Stanton just got to the ball first.

Some excellent work by Keiron James led to him feeding a ball into Swaffield's path but again the linesman's flag went up for offside.

A fierce tackle by Tata's Daniel Williams on the half hour mark by the touchline ended Banguraso's game, sustaining a calf injury, Luke Garland replacing him.

Garland was straight into the game winning a corner for the visitors. Bruce took it and Scott Muir got his head to it first to open the scoring from four yards.

Tata began to up their game and a fine run and cross by Thomas Edwards brought Dinas' superb goalkeeper James Curtin into the action, diving on the ball with the Tata players all around him.

Some battling work by Donnelly, who had a superb game, played speedy winger Rhys Palmer in on goal; he shot on target but Stanton gathered the ball easily.

There was another trademark save by Curtin, this time from Gavin Williams from close range. When it looked as though he must score, Curtin spread himself and saved the shot with his leg to keep Dinas' slender lead intact. Tata continued to press but the Dinas back four were well organised.

In the last minute of the half there were chances at both ends, Curtin making another fine reaction save from Tom Phillips and Nicky Bruce from 20 yards, forcing Stanton to concede a corner which he gathered and the half ended with Dinas still with their noses in front.

In the gathering gloom Tata managed to level things when striker Phillips nodded home a cross from five yards after just six minutes of the second period. Dinas upped their game again and a good cross by Palmer was headed just over by Donnelly.

The visitors were dealt another blow when young defender Mason Ah-Mun sustained a hamstring injury after 17 minutes, Gavin Lewis replacing him.

With 15 minutes remaining Dinas made their final substitution, Tomos Edwards replacing Scott Muir.

Dinas then had an excellent chance to take the lead again when a good ball in was controlled by Edwards and with only Stanton to beat he put his effort too close to the Tata keeper who parried it away to safety.

The visitors were made to pay dearly for this in the very last minute when Gavin Williams lobbed Curtin, who just couldn't jump high enough to tip it over the bar in the quagmire he was standing in and the visitors returned to Dinas without at least a point their play had deserved, the final score 2-1.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 Rhys Harlin, 3 Mamadu Banguraso, 4 James Marr (c), 5 Mason Ah-Mun, 6 Keiron James, 7 Luke Swaffield, 8 Nicky Bruce, 9 Scott Muir (1), 10 Nathan Donnelly, 11 Rhys Palmer, 12 Gavin Lewis, 14 Luke Garland, 15 Tomos Edwards.

This Saturday Dinas are at home to Chepstow, kick off 2pm at The Murch.

PK

Seniors end year on high

SENIOR golfing members and their wives attended the annual seniors dinner at Brynhill Golf Club on November 20.

Ralph Thomas, the seniors captain, has had a very successful year and enjoyed telling his jokes at the dinner.

The evening was a great success and the food supplied by Gareth and Mark Dommett was wonderful and enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Helena Coombes for her wonderful table displays, which Ralph presented to the president's wife, Brenda, his wife Joyce, and the incoming captain's wife.

The dinner is the last function before the seniors captain retires from his year in office which happens at the seniors AGM at the beginning of December.

Ralph Thomas hands over the reigns to his successor Dave Slugg at the AGM - very best wishes to Dave in the coming year.

JK

Wolves win in poor conditions

IN possibly the worst conditions Dinas Powys Wolves under-13s had ever played in, they faced Cowbridge Reds under-13s at home.

The home team still managed to play their passing game on a pitch that cut up quickly and it didn't take the villagers long to open the scoring when Robson Mallam connected well with a fine header from a Booker corner.

Cole Saunders then made it two as he coolly lifted the ball over the on coming Cowbridge keeper. Perreira, Doughty and Fifield were having impressive games in the middle, playing simple passes to the wide players.

Hewitson again covered every blade of grass and linked the play up very well throughout.

The second half saw more of the same as the fitness training really showed as the home side were first to every ball. Saunders added another two to complete his hattrick, while little OB slotted in at a number of positions and his pass completion was very high.

Frost, Lewis, Williams and Quest were in no mood to concede at the back and offered Morris plenty of protection, and the final score was 4-0.

LS

TOWN FACE CUP TEST

BARRY Town United play their biggest game of the season to date on Saturday afternoon, as Gavin Chesterfield's side welcome Denbigh Town to Jenner Park in the third round of the Welsh Cup.

The north Wales outfit will provide stern opposition off the back of a fine season of cup form thus far, securing their place in January's League Cup final against TNS several weeks ago.

However, the Town have scored 10 times in their two Welsh Cup outings to date, earning a pair of comeback wins over Briton Ferry and Aberdare to reach the national third round stage.

Kick-off on Saturday is at 2.30pm, with the Jenner Suite open for refreshments from 12.30pm.

Admission for the match, which will be settled by extra-time and penalties if required, is £5 at the turnstiles, with discounts offered for senior citizens, students and children.

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